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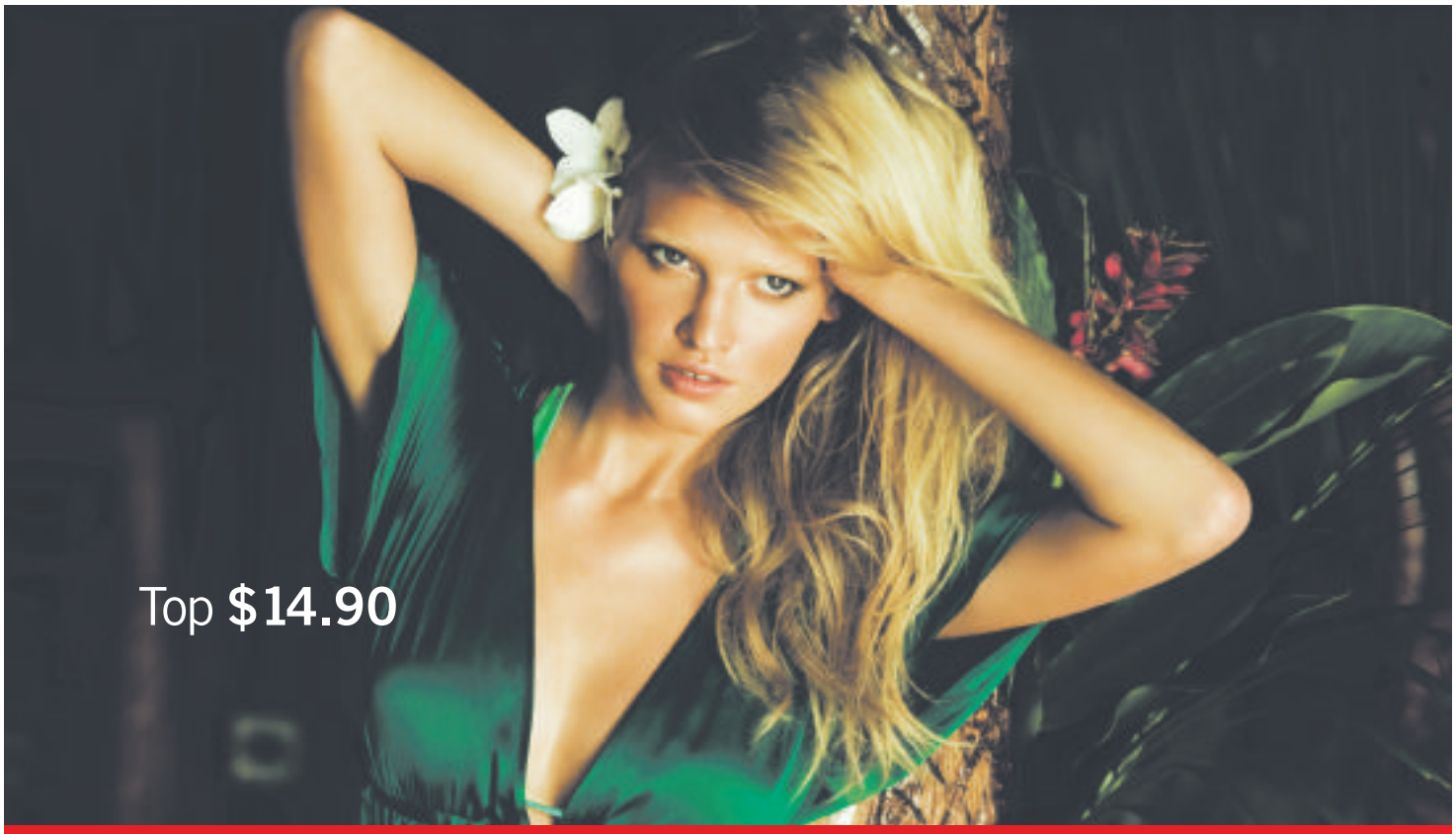

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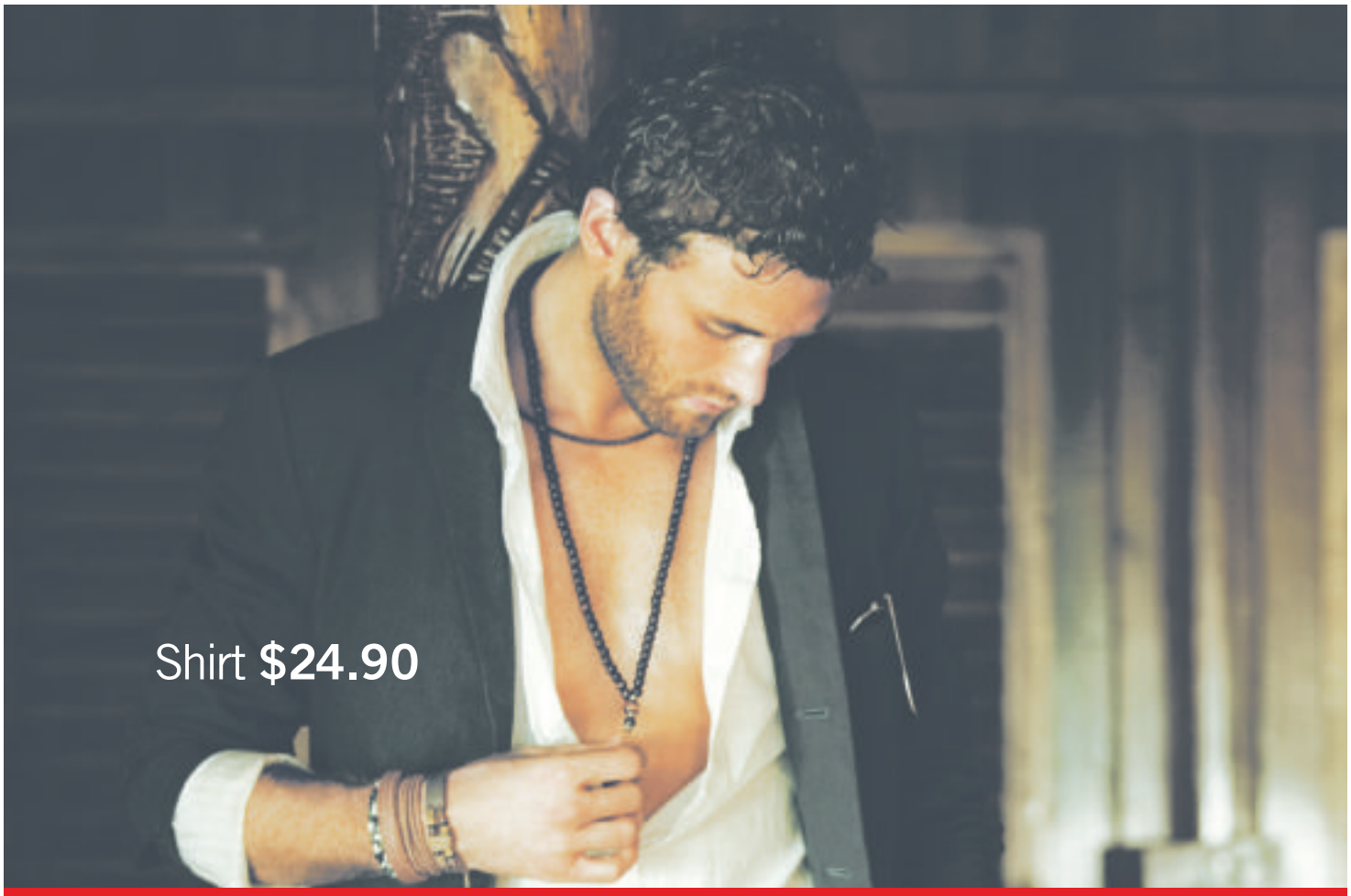

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» goinggreen p.16

Suzuki on the polar bears' peril

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PoCo mayor pleads guilty

Scott Young admits to assault involving his ex-girlfriend

By JEFF HODSON
Metro Vancouver

In a state of "gross intoxication," Port Coquitlam Mayor Scott Young stormed into his ex-girlfriend's gym on April 4, 2006 and started kicking and punching her new boyfriend, a Crown prosecutor said yesterday.

In the mayor's pockets were two four-metre polypropylene ropes, similar to the one Young's teenage daughter used to hang herself in 2002.

"There was an ominous overtone to what was going on that night," Crown prosecutor Emmet Duncan said yesterday after Young pleaded guilty to two counts of assault and one count of breaching a court order to stay away from Colleen Preston, his ex-girlfriend.

The Crown is seeking a conditional sentence of nine to 12 months that would be served in the community.

Duncan said there is no way of knowing what was going on in Young's head when the door to Preston's gym — a converted-garage in her backyard — "whipped open" and the mayor ran in and began kicking Glen Shaw, her new boyfriend.

Shaw was lying on the floor doing crunches, but got to his feet grappling with Young, who Preston described as looking "wasted" and like a "different person."

At one point, he broke free from Shaw and slapped Preston.

A 9-1-1 call made by Preston was played in court.

In it, Young can be heard in the background yelling "You wrecked my life!" and "You killed me!" Preston can be heard yelling, "You killed me!" and "You're not allowed to be here."

Preston began crying and ran from the courtroom as the 9-1-1 call played.

Young's lawyer Richard Peck has yet to make his submissions. Four other charges against the mayor, including break and entering and criminal harassment, were stayed.

still scared

» In a victim impact statement, Preston said fear affects her ability to sleep or go to her gym at night. She leaves baseball bats around the house in case someone breaks in.

» celeb buzz p.32

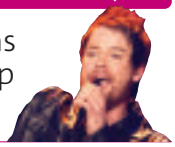
war of words
Richards, Sheen continue back and forth battle

» homerenos p.19

Tips to get you through

» entertainment p.28

Idol fans serve up Cook



Please recycle

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Wheels keep on turning

Mia Kohout, program director for Bike to Work Week, at the event's launch outside Canada Place yesterday morning. The annual anti-drive campaign, which begins next week, aims to get 1,000 non-cyclists out of their cars and onto their bicycles. Story, page 3.

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local

Three Langley men have launched a campaign to make smokers pay a 10-cent per butt deposit on their cigarette butts. They said it would deter smokers from chucking their butts on streets.

SOURCE: NEWS1130.COM

Citytv

‘Cycling is for everyone’

By **JEFF HODSON**
Metro Vancouver

A local organization is aiming to get 1,000 non-cyclists out of their cars next week to enjoy the health, cost and environmental benefits of riding their bicycles to work.

Mia Kohout, program director for Bike to Work Week, began cycling to work after attending the event three years ago.

“I hadn’t ridden my bike since I was a kid,” she said. “I tried it again and I loved it. I knew other people would love it too if they tried it.”

Bike to Work Week begins Monday and includes incentives, like prizes, for people who take part. It aims to sign up 700 workplace teams, totalling about 7,000 people, including 1,000 people who have never biked to work.

Kohout said cycling improves health, saves money and doesn’t pollute, but said there are “perceived barriers” like time and weather.

Last year’s event drew roughly 500 teams, 3,500 participants and 900 new riders. It reduced carbon emissions by 33 tonnes, she said.

“Cycling is for everyone. ... You just need a bike in working condition and a helmet. And a lock.”

bike to work

» To register for Bike to Work Week or for more information visit vacc.bc.ca.

»news In Brief

» **TASER** Tasers can be lethal but are also used hundreds of times a day without killing, a forensic pathologist testified at the Braidwood Inquiry, CBC News Online reports. While it’s hard to directly connect Tasers and cause of death, they can contribute to a sudden death, John Butt said.

» **WANTED** A Vancouver graffiti artist is wanted on a Canada-wide warrant, news1130.com reports. Victor Briestensky, 20, is wanted for two counts of mischief. Police said he could be heading to Montreal.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

2010 tickets on sale Oct. 3

VANOC CEO hopes Beijing excitement will fuel interest

By **ANDREW KING**
for Metro Vancouver

Olympic tickets will go on sale Oct. 3, VANOC CEO John Furlong announced yesterday.

They’re going on sale one week earlier than expected to take advantage of the excitement generated by the Beijing Games.

“We’re expecting an enormous response to the ticketing program,” Furlong added.

An Olympic ticket-planning guide will be available in mid-September.

Meanwhile, VANOC is preparing to confront an unnamed national Olympic committee that has allegedly agreed to resell coveted tickets to scalpers — including for the men’s gold medal hockey game.

“They’ve sold them to a company in Vancouver,” VANOC executive vice-president David Cobb said. “Someone at that company contacted us and asked whether they were legitimate, and we said ‘no.’”

Various Olympic committees have been set up around the world, receiving about one-third of all tickets, which they are not allowed to resell.

VANOC has retraced the Olympic committee accused of trying to resell tickets, but refused to name it yesterday.

“If they can't convince us the information we have is wrong, they won't be getting tickets,” Cobb said.

transportation

» VANOC is also looking to include transportation, both locally and to Whistler, in the ticket prices, to ensure people are able to travel to venues without their vehicles.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

VANOC CEO John Furlong announces at a press conference in Vancouver yesterday that Olympic tickets will go on sale in October.

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PCTIA ACCREDITED

VANOC announced yesterday it will announce the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route sometime between fall 2008 and winter 2009. It's expected to make 1,000 stops on its 100-day journey to Vancouver.

METRO VANCOUVER

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Benefit for Myanmar

DJs spinning at Shine Nightclub for relief effort

By **ANDREA WOO**
for Metro Vancouver

When Vancouver hip-hop promoter Sean Lalla heard that the death toll of Myanmar's Cyclone Nargis had exceeded 20,000, he was reminded of the Indian Ocean tsunami that killed more than 225,000 people in 2004. It was then that he decided to do something.

> *« Mainstream media is the most effective marketing tool in fundraising to help deal with damage caused by natural disasters. »*
> Hip-hop promoter Sean Lalla

"Mainstream media is the most effective marketing tool in fundraising to help deal with damage caused by natural disasters," said Lalla, proprietor of Spectrum Entertainment Group and one of the city's top concert promoters. "It seemed to me that media coverage of the cyclone kept taking a backseat to countless U.S. democratic debates ... so I decided to help out the best I can with the resources I have."

Within 24 hours, Lalla and fellow promoter Sammie Jo Rumbaua had gotten more than 20 DJs onboard for a benefit to be held at Shine Nightclub (364 Water St.) this Sunday. Each DJ will get 10 to 20 minutes to spin funk, soul, hip hop and old school in what Lalla says will be "fun, organized chaos." There is a $7 minimum donation and all proceeds will go to UNICEF's Myanmar relief effort.

According to official figures, Cyclone Nargis has left more than 78,000 dead so far, 56,000 missing and millions more homeless. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies estimate that the death toll could reach 127,990.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA EDEBURN

Flipout, left, and Jay Swing are two of more than 20 DJs who will spin at the benefit for Myanmar at Shine Nightclub on Sunday.

Students leave Chengdu due to quake fears

By **KRISTEN THOMPSON**
Metro Vancouver

Ten Kinesiology students from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) have left Chengdu over fears of another earthquake, only days after deciding to stay to finish their summer studies.

> *« Despite the desire of the students to remain in Chengdu, I felt that it was best to relocate them to a safer place given the instability of the situation where they are. »*
> UFV president Harold Bassford

On May 12, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit the region, leaving around 40,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands missing or displaced.

After government warnings about a possible massive aftershock, UFV president Harold Bassford made the call to move the students to another school in China.

"Despite the desire of the students to remain in Chengdu, I felt that it was best to relocate them to a safer place given the instability of the situation where they are," he said.

Chris Bertram, a professor who is with the students, said while the students were "bitterly disappointed" to be leaving, the time to do so had come.

"The situation is just too unstable," he said, adding they feel guilty to have the choice to leave when so many others have no choice but to stay.

The group has now arrived at Shenzhen Polytechnic, more than 900 kilometres from Chengdu.

-kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

»news In Brief

» **ATTACK** A 22-year-old woman suffered minor abrasions after she was attacked and pulled to the ground at 40th Avenue and Ontario Street at around 11:40 p.m. Tuesday night. The woman described her male attacker as six feet tall and skinny, wearing a white hoodie over his head.

» **STABBING** A Vancouver man was robbed and stabbed in the back in the 1300 block of West 7th Avenue early yesterday morning. The 30-year-old, who is well known to police, is in hospital after he was kicked and stabbed by two men who then stole his digital camera.

» **EDUCATION** Metro Vancouver school districts have been inundated with students signing up for summer school, news1130.com reports. As of Tuesday, there were more than 10,000 kids registered in Vancouver, up from just 4,400 at the same time last year.

» **FERRY** Because of rising levels on the Fraser River the Albion Ferry is imposing weight restrictions on heavy trucks, news1130.com reports. Vehicles heavier than 5,500 kilos won't be carried on the ferry and will have to use the Pitt River, Mission or Port Mann Bridges.

» **FIRE** Ridge Meadows RCMP is investigating what it believes is a deliberately set house fire. Around 2:30 a.m. a resident of the house discovered the south side of the building was on fire. Everyone got out safely.

» **AWARDS** Vancouver's Playhouse Theatre has received 14 nominations in this year's Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards for its productions of Timothy Findley's The Wars and Sam Shepard's True West, CBC News Online reports. More than 130 finalists for Vancouver's annual theatre awards were announced, to be declared June 30.

» **OUCH** A 21-year-old man is recovering after being shot in the buttocks in Coquitlam, cknw.com reports. Police said he told them he was shot after getting out of his car to relieve himself outside Maple Creek middle school on Hastings Street.

» **CHARGES** A Burnaby man who is facing several charges for allegedly violently robbing an elderly man several times over a series of days is now facing even more charges, RCMP said. Douglas John has been charged with four counts of break and enter and two counts of robbery.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Apology to acknowledge 'suffering'

Komagata Maru arrived in 1914

The B.C. government will introduce a motion in the legislature tomorrow to apologize for the Komagata Maru incident.

House Leader Michael De Jong said the timing is meant to coincide with the anniversary of the arrival of the ship carrying would-be Indian immigrants at Vancouver harbour on May 23, 1914.

"This motion acknowledges the suffering the passengers of the Komagata Maru experienced as a consequence of racist attitudes of the day toward people from India and expresses deep regret that those passengers were turned away," Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism Wally Oppal said.

contribution

» B.C. contributed $20,000 to the Komagata Maru Foundation of Canada in 1990 for an historical and educational video.

Canadian officials took two months to determine that only 24 of the 376 mostly Sikh passengers on the Komagata Maru would be allowed to stay. Meanwhile, passengers faced food shortages and disease on the crowded Japanese steamship.

LEONARD FRANK/VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, VPL 6232

Passengers on the Komagata Maru steamship who were refused landing in Vancouver in 1914 due to their Punjabi background.

Upon arrival in India, the passengers were detained. The British planned to send them to Punjab, and when they protested 20 were killed.

METRO VANCOUVER

Police recruiting campaign hits the road

The Vancouver Police Department recruiting team is hitting the road for its new operation: Search and Employ.

Recruiters will travel throughout the province in their mobile recruiting office to find 200 new officers over the next two years.

"Whatever it takes to get those people, we're all willing to do," said Insp. Tom McCluskie, who revealed the refurbished pickup truck and camper yesterday.

For anyone who is interested in a career in law enforcement, the mobile recruitment office will be stationed at Science World all day Saturday.

ANDREW KING/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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A memorial service will be held today for Isaiah Otieno, a Kenyan student who was killed when a helicopter crashed on him while he was walking down a Cranbrook street. METRO VANCOUVER

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLI GARDNER

In addition to loss of habitat, the Vancouver Island marmot is victim to predators including cougars, wolves and golden eagles.

B.C. comes to aid of little creatures

The endangered Vancouver Island marmot is getting some financial help from the B.C. government.

Two grants totalling $223,000 were announced by Environment Minister Barry Penner yesterday.

The Vancouver Island marmot, about the size of a large house cat, is considered a distinct species and there are only about 90 of them in the wild. They gave birth to only three litters in 2007.

To help the species avoid extinction, conservationists have started captive breeding programs, with the goal of having 400-600 animals surviving on the island.

A $100,000 grant will provide the Marmot Recovery Foundation with support against operating shortfalls.

An additional $133,000 grant will help with population restoration and recovery through a national Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Plan.

METRO VANCOUVER

marmot mascot

» Last November, VANOC introduced Mukmuk, a Vancouver Island marmot, as a sidekick to the three official Olympic mascots.

» Mukmuk is a virtual mascot, appearing only on the Vancouver 2010 Olympics website.

»news In Brief

» **LOTTERY** The B.C. Lottery Corp. under-reports suspected money laundering at casinos, CBC News Online reports. Players can feed thousands of dollars in $20 bills into slot machines and cash out after playing only once or twice, walking away with a casino cheque for the remaining amount.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mair goes with the flow

Save Our Rivers gets boost from former minister

By **KRISTEN THOMPSON**
Metro Vancouver

British Columbia's society for the protection of rivers has a new spokesperson — the province's former environment minister.

Rafe Mair, a longtime writer, radio personality and political commentator, said he joined Save Our Rivers Society to fight the privatization of B.C.'s hydropower system.

"I love my province and I love the environment," Mair said yesterday. "(Rivers are) an asset we all own and it's being sold to private companies ... It really is Orwellian, it really is 1984."

Mair said privatization of hydropower negates public input and risks creating a lack of accountability and transparency.

"Environmentally, it is catastrophic," he said. "When you control the flow of the river you have to take the fish out of the equation. The obvious end result is there'd be virtually no fish left in the streams."

Tom Rankin, director of Save Our Rivers Society, claimed that when the once-public land is transferred into the hands of private companies it becomes gated wilderness.

"That just doesn't feel like Canada," he said. "There's a big gate and guards ... It's really, really devastating."

Barry Penner, the minister of environment, was not available by press time.

spokesman

» Rafe Mair spoke at a community meet-and-greet in Kitsilano yesterday, where he was introduced as the new spokesman for Save Our Rivers Society.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Former lawyer, radio personality and B.C. cabinet minister Rafe Mair speaks out against the privatization of public power and water resources yesterday.

'It's up to every individual'

Hydroelectric power projects are increasingly falling into the hands of private companies, but the public can protect their rivers by exerting their power of persuasion, according to Rafe Mair.

In March, a proposed power line project along the Upper Pitt River was axed after opposition from the public.

Run of River Incorporated hoped to build seven hydroelectric generating projects through the river.

Environment Minister Barry Penner said at the time the proposal was neither economically nor environmentally sound and didn't have enough public support.

More than 1,000 people filled Pitt Meadows secondary school to condemn the project, saying the project would endanger local wildlife.

"It's up to every individual ... to (become) involved in their own governance," Mair told the crowd at the school.

Run Of River Incorporated is still considering alternate options.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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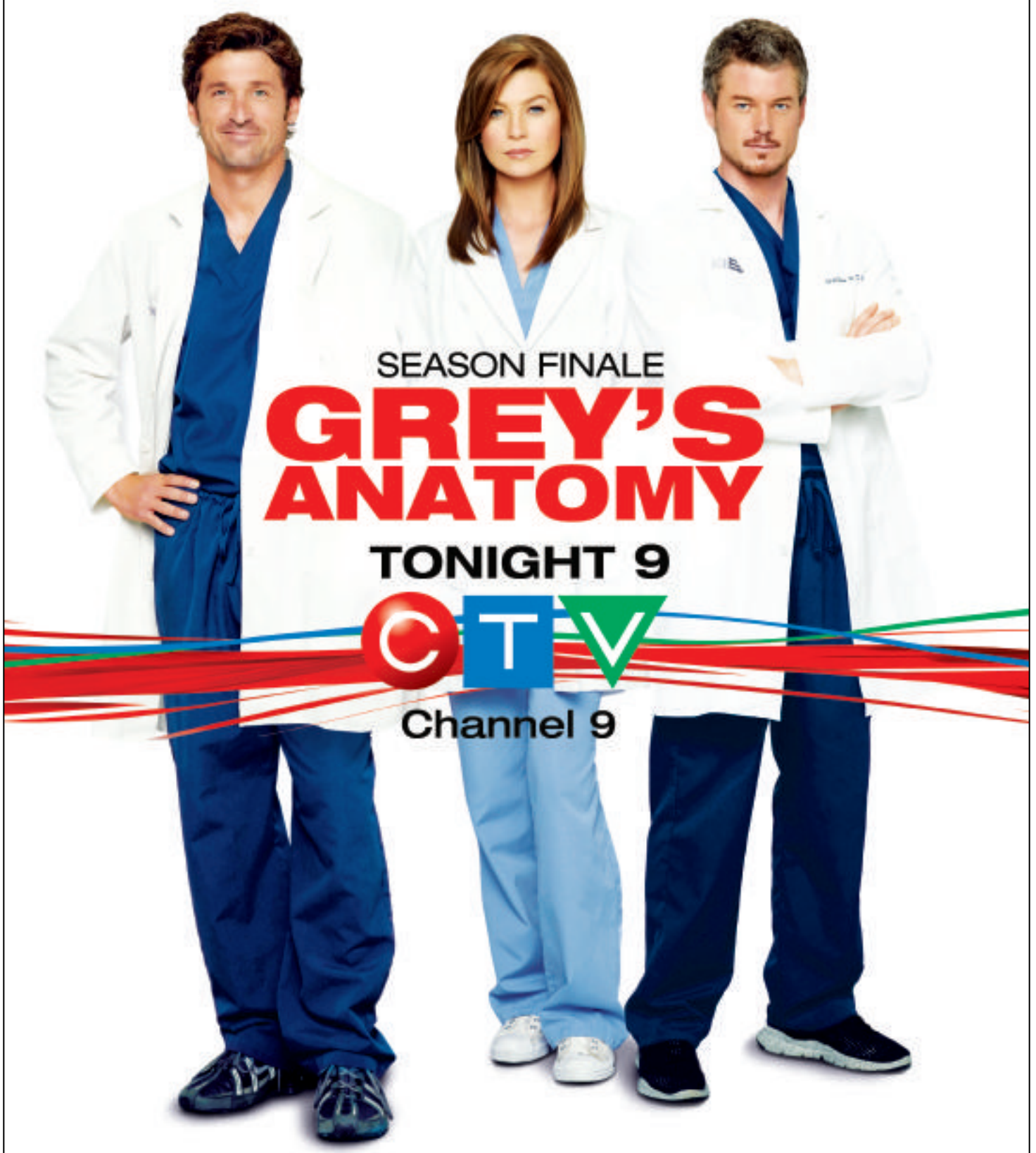

canada

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's approval rating has sunk to its lowest level yet, with nine of 10 Canadians saying they disapprove or are not sure of his performance at the head of the party, according to the latest Torstar/Angus Reid opinion poll. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MARK BLINCH/REUTERS

U.S. soldier who fought in Iraq before deserting and coming to Canada, Corey Glass, 25, sits before speaking to the media in Toronto yesterday.

Deserter told to leave

U.S. soldier served in Iraq before fleeing to Canada

After a 22-month battle to earn a home in Toronto, Corey Glass, 25, a former American soldier, was told yesterday he will become the first Iraq War resister to be deported from Canadian soil after his application to stay in the country was rejected.

"He's supposed to leave on his own by June 12," said War Resisters Support Campaign co-ordinator Lee Zaslofsky, who came to Canada after fleeing enlistment in the American military during the Vietnam War. "After that, he's subject to deportation."

The rejection, Zaslofsky said, was based on a failed pre-removal risk assessment by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, which found that, if removed from the country, Glass would not be at immediate risk of death, torture, or cruel or unusual treatment or punishment.

The potential consequence is unclear; past deserters who have returned to the U.S. have received punishments ranging from a dishonourable discharge to jail time in a military prison. This first rejection could be a chilling sign of things to come for at least nine other war resisters who have requested a pre-removal risk assessment, Zaslofsky said, and could shut the door to other war resisters' attempts to find a home in Canada.

An Indiana native, Glass' tenure with the military began in 2002 when he joined the National Guard to complete "humanitarian work" within the U.S., he said. At that time, he had no idea he would end up fighting on foreign shores. When he was deployed to Iraq in 2005, Glass said he tried to quit the military and was returned home on a leave later that same year. He then went AWOL for eight months before defecting to Toronto in August, 2006.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Climate Action Dividend

How will you spend your $100?

Starting in late June, British Columbians will receive a Climate Action Dividend of $100. Together with new cuts to personal and business taxes and over $1 billion in climate action initiatives, the dividend is intended to help people make climate friendly choices. By making smart choices with your $100 dividend on everyday purchases like energy-efficient light bulbs, or shopping locally for produce, your decisions can make a big difference.

To learn more about the dividend and other climate smart measures, visit smartchoicesbc.ca or call 1-877-387-3332.

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

NDP MLA Jenny Kwan introduces a Bill to officially recognize InSite as a medical facility in Victoria yesterday.

Bill introduced to protect InSite

Measure would designate space a medical facility

More than 100 InSite advocates met with NDP MLA Jenny Kwan in Victoria yesterday to show support for a new Bill she introduced that will designate the supervised injection site as a medical health facility.

Kwan, who represents the Vancouver-Mount Pleasant riding, said the Bill calls for "… the continuum of care for people of the Downtown Eastside community, who struggle with addiction, mental illness and HIV/AIDS."

The Bill, titled The Supervised Injection Facility Designation Act, is meant to protect InSite from possible closure by the federal government and bring it under the protective umbrella of the province.

If the act is passed by the legislature it will be retroactive to June 1, 2003, when InSite was established.

METRO VANCOUVER

»news In Brief

» **ABORTION** Canada's abortion rate fell by 3.2 per cent overall in 2005, Statistics Canada reported yesterday, with teen abortions down by nearly 6 per cent.

» **GUIDELINES** Prime Minister Stephen Harper is proposing tougher food labeling guidelines at a time of growing concern that unknown, potentially hazardous ingredients from abroad are finding their way into the products on Canada's store shelves.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Staff ignored pleas: Report

Inmate died after guards offered no help: Watchdog

Four veteran prison guards stood by as native inmate Martin Blackwind bled to death from a self-inflicted wound and were docked only 10 to 20 days' pay, says a report released yesterday.

Blackwind, 52, bled to death Oct. 3, 2006, after slashing his arm. He was at the Warkworth medium security prison northeast of Toronto.

The investigation shows staff offered no assistance despite Blackwind's pleas for help. When paramedics finally arrived he could not be revived. Correction watchdog Howard Sapers concluded the wound likely would not have been fatal had it been attended to.

Sapers, Canada's correctional investigator, told Torstar not only was the guards' punishment insufficient, the incident underscores the CSC's inadequate response to medical emergencies, allegations of discrimination toward native offenders and excessive delays in the investigative process.

The Ontario regional president for the Union of Canadian Correctional Officers said nothing supports allegations of discrimination or that guards failed to do their job.

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day's office said Correctional Service of Canada is "reviewing the findings and recommendations of (the) report to determine the appropriate next steps to take."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

shooting

Man shot in rear end at strip club

EDMONTON A fight inside an Edmonton strip club resulted in a 25-year-old man getting treated for a gunshot wound to his derriere in hospital yesterday morning.

Police say a fight broke out between two groups of men, including the one shot in his buttocks, sometime before 2 a.m. inside the Diva's Exotic Ultra Lounge.

JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO EDMONTON

U.S. had policy on minor detainees

U.S. military doctors drafted policies recommending detainees under the age of 18 be kept out of Guantanamo Bay or receive special treatment to "minimize psychological, emotional and physical harm" at a time when Canadian Omar Khadr was interrogated and held among adult detainees, a newly disclosed document reveals.

The January 2003 document recommends seven pages of treatment specific for "pediatric detainees," including the right to education, psychiatric evaluation and imprisonment out of "sight and sound" of adult detainees.

"All efforts should be made to keep those in the pediatric age range from undergoing detention at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba," the report states.

"People less than 18 years are emotionally, psychologically and physically dynamic and complex. If it is determined that they must be detained, then all aspects of their transport, in-processing, and detainment should be specific for this age group."

The document indicates for the first time the U.S. administration's recognition that "enemy combatants" under the age of 18 are entitled to special treatment. It was written by four military doctors and released to Khadr's defence team following a request for any directives concerning the treatment of minors at Guantanamo. Khadr's military lawyer, navy Lt.-Cmdr. Bill Kuebler, said it was the only material disclosed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Autism **Raising money**

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

Jonathan Howard laces up his sneakers at Province House yesterday in Halifax. Howard, 24, a Mississauga, Ont., native, is running across Canada to raise money for autism. His goal is to raise $2.5 million. For more information, or to donate, visit *www.runthedream.ca*.

world

Police in Kazakhstan have arrested the editor of a newspaper called "Anti-corruption newsletter" on charges of bribing one of its officers. Police accuse the editor, Tokbergen Abiyev, of paying $2,000 to obtain compromising information about judges. REUTERS

UN chief to meet Burmese leader

Focus on saving lives, not politics, says Ban Ki-moon

United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon began a mission yesterday for Myanmar's cyclone victims, saying "our focus now is on saving lives," as the military government gave approval for the first foreign helicopters to distribute aid.

The UN Secretary-General said relief workers had so far been able to reach only a quarter of those in need among an estimated 2.4 million people made destitute by the May 2 storm and sea surge that left nearly 134,000 dead or missing.

"We must do our utmost for the people of Myanmar," Ban said when he arrived in the Thai capital of Bangkok before travelling to Myanmar today. "Aid in Myanmar should not be politicized. Our focus now is on saving lives."

The United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Myanmar is a member, are to convene a donors' pledging conference in Yangon on Sunday.

The government wants more than $11 billion in aid, but international donors need access to verify the needs, ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan told Reuters in an interview.

"Accessibility is important to guarantee confidence and verify the damage and needs, otherwise confidence during pledging will be affected," Surin said on a visit to Yangon.

Ban said he would meet the military government's Senior General Than Shwe tomorrow.

Than Shwe, who took two weeks after the disaster to meet victims and see the destruction for himself, had declined to take Ban's phone calls earlier in the relief effort.

Diplomats say the general's appearances in public this week, visiting several Irrawaddy Delta towns, could be a sign the top brass finally realize the enormity of the destruction and rebuilding from one of the worst cyclones to hit Asia. REUTERS

astrologer apologizes

» Astrologer Myint Lwin is upset because he failed to see Cyclone Nargis coming. "Many people died, so I'm very sorry," Myint Lwin said. "I'll try hard to research for 2009." Astrologists are highly regarded in Burmese culture.

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Portugal Sand park

HUGO CORREIA/REUTERS

A sculptor works at a sand park exhibition yesterday in Pera, Portugal. More than 60 sculptors created a park with sand sculptures of well-known Hollywood films and characters. The park will be inaugurated today.

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China to get heavy with shoddy construction firms

China vowed yesterday to deal severely with anyone found responsible for shoddy state building work, as parents demanded to know why last week's earthquake destroyed so many schools, killing thousands of children.

« *We will take severe measures.* »
Chinese official Li Rongrong

Hundreds of distraught relatives placed wreaths along the road leading to Fuxing primary school in Wufu, where at least 127 children were crushed to death.

Li Rongrong, who heads the state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, told a news conference that generally construction companies under him were very good.

But he added: "If these buildings (which collapsed) were built by major state-owned firms, we will take severe measures." REUTERS

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Israel, Syria in peace talks

Turkey mediates between nations at war for 60 years

Israel and Syria said yesterday they had begun indirect peace talks mediated by Turkey, the first confirmation of negotiations between the long-time enemies in eight years.

In co-ordinated statements, Israel and Syria said they had begun an open dialogue with the aim of a comprehensive peace. Turkey said delegations of both countries, officially at war since Israel's creation 60 years ago, were already in Istanbul.

The United States said it did "not object," but repeated its criticism of Syria's "support of terrorism" — a reminder for many analysts that U.S. hostility to Damascus, and to its Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah allies, makes a Syria-Israel deal unlikely before President George W. Bush steps down in January.

> « *It's always better to talk than shoot.* »
> *Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert*

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said the process would be long, complex and could end in "difficult concessions" for Israel — an apparent reference to his willingness to hand back the Golan Heights.

"It's always better to talk than shoot," Olmert said, without spelling out what concessions he was thinking of.

Just eight months ago, Israeli jets bombed what U.S. officials have called a North Korean-designed nuclear facility in Syria.

An Israeli statement, echoed by one from Syria, said the two sides would now "conduct dialogue in a serious and continuous manner with the aim of reaching a comprehensive peace." REUTERS

STEVE CRISP/REUTERS

Lebanese people release white balloons yesterday in Martyr's Square in Central Beirut to celebrate the agreement.

Deal struck to end Lebanese conflict

Rival Lebanese leaders signed a deal yesterday to end 18 months of political conflict that had threatened to push the country to a new civil war.

The agreement, reached after six days of Arab-mediated talks, also paved the way for the election of a new president.

Parliament will convene on Sunday to elect army chief General Michel Suleiman as head of state, aides to Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri told Reuters in Qatar, where the feuding sides signed the accord.

The agreement between the U.S.-backed ruling coalition and the Hezbollah-led opposition resolved a dispute over a law for holding 2009 parliamentary elections and met the opposition's long-standing demand for veto power in cabinet.

It followed a Hezbollah military campaign this month against the ruling coalition which bolstered the opposition's political strength. Hezbollah, a group backed by Iran and Syria, routed its rivals in six days of conflict that killed 81 people. REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **CUBA** U.S. President George W. Bush announced yesterday that Americans are now allowed to send cellphones to their families in Cuba, in what he portrayed as a test of the Communist country's economic reforms brought in by Cuban President Raul Castro.

» **KENYA** A mob has burned to death at least 11 people accused of witchcraft in west Kenya, police said yesterday. Traditional African beliefs, Christianity and Islam co-exist peacefully in Kenya, but there is widespread suspicion of sorcery, especially in west Kenya. REUTERS

Alaska to challenge polar bear ruling

The state of Alaska will sue the U.S. government to stop the listing of the polar bear as a threatened species, arguing the designation will slow development in the state, Gov. Sarah Palin said yesterday.

Palin said the state will file a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington challenging U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne's decision to grant Endangered Species Act protections to the polar bear.

The Republican governor has argued that the ice-dependent polar bear, the first mammal granted Endangered Species Act listing because of global warming, does not need additional protections.

consultations

» Alaska's Assistant Attorney General Steven Daugherty the status would mean any development or activity requiring federal permits or using federal funds would have to engage in a "consultation" process to ensure that polar bears are not harmed.

"We believe that the listing was unwarranted and that it's unprecedented to list a currently-healthy population based on uncertain climate models," said Alaska Assistant Attorney General Steven Daugherty.

Even though Kempthorne enacted a rule aimed at precluding any new restrictions on oil and gas operations as a result of the listing, the Palin administration believes a wide variety of other development activities in Alaska would be hampered if the listing goes through, Daugherty said. REUTERS

Obama sets his sights on McCain

Democrat aiming at White House

Barack Obama sounded like the probable Democratic presidential nominee on a visit to the November election battleground of Florida yesterday, praising rival Hillary Clinton and focusing his criticism on Republican foe John McCain.

Obama used the visit to praise Clinton, saying she "has run an outstanding campaign and she deserves our admiration and our respect," he said.

The Illinois senator also took several shots at McCain, criticizing the influence of lobbyists in his campaign and calling him a new version of U.S. President George W. Bush.

Obama

Ten years ago, he said, McCain introduced a bill to ban candidates from paying registered lobbyists.

"John McCain then would be pretty disappointed with John McCain now, because he hired some of the biggest lobbyists in Washington to run his campaign," Obama said.

An MSNBC count gives him 1,961 total delegates to Clinton's 1,783, leaving him 65 short of the 2,026 needed to win the nomination at the Democratic Party's August convention.

A Reuters/Zogby poll showed Obama opening an 8-point national lead on McCain as the two geared up for their likely battle for the White House.

REUTERS

Art? Trying to find the inner balance

DENIS BALIBOUSE/REUTERS

German artist Arnd Drossel walks in his "Inner Balance" device on Lake Leman in Geneva yesterday. Drossel will make a performance tomorrow as part of a side event of a meeting of local associations dealing with psychic health.

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violence

South Africa looks to stop attacks

FOREIGNERS South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki gave approval yesterday for the army to help end attacks on foreigners that have killed more than 40 people. The attacks on African immigrants, accused by many poor South Africans of taking scarce jobs and fuelling crime, have forced thousands of people from their homes, unnerved investors and hit the rand currency.

science

Supernova caught on camera

FIRST TIME Excited astronomers said yesterday they had, for the first time, caught a supernova on camera just as it was exploding, and they may now learn how to spot others. By luck, they spotted a burst of X-rays while looking at another part of a distant galaxy, and managed to turn a variety of telescopes in the right direction just in time.

truce

Iraq troops patrol al-Sadr stronghold

MEHDI Iraqi troops set up checkpoints and intensified patrols in strategic streets they had taken over in the Baghdad bastion of Moqtada al-Sadr yesterday, testing a truce with the Shiite cleric's Mehdi Army militia.

REUTERS

business

Dollar	
0.79¢	C$ 101.62¢US
	U.S.$ 98.41¢

Oil	
$133.17US	
$4.19	

Bombardier Inc., the world's biggest train maker, has teamed up with a Russian partner to develop a high-tech locomotive that could replace the aging stock on Russia's 83,500 km of track. REUTERS

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40 stores

Starbucks to buy out two licensees

CANADA Starbucks Corp. subsidiary Starbucks Coffee Canada Inc. said yesterday it has struck a deal to buy about 40 stores and other assets from two licensees — Coffee Vision Inc. and Coffee Vision Atlantic Inc. — in Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

Starbucks said it would convert the licensees' stores to company-operated outlets and buy full development and operation rights for future retail stores in the provinces now controlled by the licensees. REUTERS

Inflation up 1.7%

Gas, baked goods up 11.6% and 10.4% over year

Sticker shock at the pumps, and to some extent the bakery aisles, caused consumer prices to accelerate for the first time in five months in April, and experts are already predicting it could get worse.

Economists warn that the inflation report from Statistics Canada yesterday is an early sign that consumers are starting to be hit by soaring energy costs and rising pressure on food prices, despite the cushioning effect of a higher dollar. The report also cast doubt on the scope of further interest-rate cuts by the Bank of Canada.

The consumer price index increased 1.7 per cent between April 2007 and April 2008, surpassing the 1.4 per cent consensus forecast.

Gasoline was fingered as the main culprit. StatsCan said gas prices rose 11.6 per cent year over year. Prices for bakery products jumped 10.4 per cent, marking the "steepest rise" since late 1981.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reaction from feds

» Prime Minister Harper said the inflation spike was limited to some products and to Western Canada, the heart of Canada's booming energy sector. "... inflation is still by historical standards very, very low in this country," he said. REUTERS

Air Canada sees fuel costs hurting air travel

High fuel prices that are consuming a growing proportion of income at Air Canada will likely hurt demand for air travel, the airline's chief executive said yesterday.

Montie Brewer, Air Canada's president and CEO, said the country's biggest airline is pushing ahead with plans to use newer, more fuel-efficient aircraft. Air Canada also plans to starting charging customers a fee for a second checked bag on certain North American flights. REUTERS

higher and higher

» In the first quarter, Air Canada's fuel expenses rose 22 per cent to $715 million from $585 million a year earlier. Fuel costs are now roughly twice what is spent on wages and salaries.

»news In Brief

» **AIRWAYS** American Airlines' shares fell 24 per cent yesterday as it said it will cut thousands of jobs, retire old aircraft and charge passengers to check bags in a move to counter record fuel prices and a weak U.S. economy.

» **UNITED STATES** Executives from the five biggest international oil companies yesterday claimed that they were victims of high oil prices along with U.S. consumers, but U.S. Senate lawmakers showed little sympathy. For the second time this year, executives from Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and three other big energy companies were called to testify before U.S. Congress to explain their swelling profits as gasoline prices hit a record average of $3.79 a gallon. REUTERS

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Metro is the world's largest international newspaper, with more than 18.5 million daily readers in 100 major cities in 21 countries.

Please recycle

sports

Veteran forward Jeremy Roenick, left, agreed to terms on a one-year contract with the San Jose Sharks yesterday. Roenick had 14 goals and 33 points in 69 games for the Sharks last season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ski jumpers sue for 2010 spot

Female athletes claim unfair discrimination

A coalition of international women ski jumpers filed suit in Canada yesterday challenging their exclusion from the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The lawsuit against the Vancouver Organizing Committee argues that the women from Europe and North America have been discriminated against because the Games allow only men's ski jumping.

"The failure to include women's ski jumping events in the Games violates every woman's right to equal benefit under the law," according to the lawsuit filed in British Columbia Supreme Court in Vancouver.

Nearly all Olympic sports have both a men's and women's event, but the International Olympic Committee always has exempted ski jumping to let it be a male-only competition.

Furlong

IOC President Jacques Rogge said in February that only 80 women were competing in the sport, far fewer than for other Olympic sports, and including it in the 2010 Games would dilute the value of medals won in other events.

The women's supporters argue they meet all the technical requirements to qualify, and accuse opponents of being sexist and unwilling to force male ski jumpers to share potential sponsorship money athletes they get from being part of the Games.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee said it could not comment on the lawsuit, but noted that only the IOC had the authority to decide what events were held at the Winter and Summer Games.

"We have no vote in this," committee chief executive John Furlong said.

Furlong said the committee did tell the IOC that if it decided to include the women's event the local organizers would make sure they were ready to handle it.

But the Vancouver committee officials also warned that the competition schedule — which has to balance the needs of both athletes and international broadcasters — is scheduled to be finalized by August, and it would be very difficult to change after that.

The lawsuit said the Vancouver Organizing Committee can be sued over the issue because it receives substantial Canadian government funding and is responsible for carrying out government policies to make sure the Games are successful.

The women ski jumpers had filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, but it was settled in January under an agreement with the federal government that called for the dispute to be mediated.

REUTERS

Lakers mount huge 20-point comeback

Bryant knocks down 27 in win

LAKERS 89 SPURS 85

The Los Angeles Lakers mounted a dramatic second-half comeback in a 89-85 victory over the defending champion San Antonio Spurs in the first game of the Western Conference finals last night.

Trailing by as many as 20 points in the third quarter, the Lakers rode the hot hand of Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol to prevent San Antonio spoiling their perfect home record in the playoffs.

Bryant, the NBA's Most Valuable Player, scored only two points in the first two quarters before taking over in the second half, finishing with 27 points. Gasol added 19 points. Duncan led the Spurs with 30 points, 18 rebounds and four blocked shots. Game Two is in Los Angeles on Friday. REUTERS

MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

Rio Ferdinand and Ryan Giggs, second from right, of Manchester United lift the trophy following their team's 6-5 victory over Premiership rivals Chelsea in the penalty shootout during the UEFA Champions League final yesterday in Moscow. It is the team's third European Cup title.

Man U delivers double

Premier League winners claim Champions title

MANCHESTER UNITED 1 CHELSEA 1 (6-5)

Manchester United were crowned kings of Europe for the third time yesterday when they beat Chelsea 6-5 on penalties after a breathless all-English Champions League final had finished 1-1 after extra time.

United's 37-year-old goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, appearing in his third final, 13 years after his first with Ajax Amsterdam, saved the decisive spot kick from substitute Nicolas Anelka.

The victory completed a famous double for the Old Trafford team, which edged Chelsea for the Premier League title 10 days ago.

It was an emotional triumph for United, coming 50 years after the Munich air disaster, and there was a huge cheer for one of the survivors, Bobby Charlton, when he joined the team at the presentation of the trophy he lifted in 1968 before Alex Ferguson led the team to a second success in 1999.

"We've had fate on our side all season and I felt that fate played its hand with John Terry slipping," Ferguson said of the Chelsea captain's key penalty miss.

It was a heartbreaking night for Terry, who had the chance to take the trophy to Stamford Bridge for the first time, but sent what would have been the winning penalty against the outside of the post.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored the first-half opener for Man U, while Frank Lampard had the equalizer. REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL
PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT
Game 1 — Saturday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 5
Game 2 — Monday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 5
Game 3 — Wednesday, May 28
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 5
Game 4 — Saturday, May 31
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 5
*Game 5 — Monday, June 2
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 5
*Game 6 — Wednesday, June 4
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 6
*Game 7 — Saturday, June 7
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 5
(* – if necessary)

NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS
WESTERN CONFERENCE
L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO
Game 1 — Last night
L.A. Lakers 89 San Antonio 85
Game 2 — Tomorrow
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 6
Game 3 — Sunday
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 6:30
Game 4 — Tuesday
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 6
*Game 5 — Thursday, May 29
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 6
*Game 6 — Saturday, May 31
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 6:30
*Game 7 — Monday, June 2
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 6
(L.A. Lakers lead series 1-0)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
BOSTON VS. DETROIT
Game 2 — Today
Detroit at Boston, 5:30
Game 3 — Saturday
Boston at Detroit, 5:30
Game 4 — Monday
Boston at Detroit, 5:30
*Game 5 — Wednesday, May 28
Detroit at Boston, 5:30
*Game 6 — Friday, May 30
Boston at Detroit, 5:30
*Game 7 — Sunday, June 1
Detroit at Boston, 5:30
(Boston leads series 1-0)
(* – if necessary)

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Oakland 9 Tampa Bay 1
Detroit 9 Seattle 4
Boston 6 Kansas City 3
N.Y. Yankees8 Baltimore 0
L.A. Angels 4 Toronto 3
Texas 10 Minnesota 1
Chicago W. Sox 7 Cleveland 2
NATIONAL LEAGUE
San Francisco 3 Colorado 2 (10 ings)
Milwaukee 4 Pittsburgh 1
Atlanta 11 N.Y. Mets 4
Florida 3 Arizona 1
Philadelphia 12 Washington 2
Houston 5 Chicago Cubs 3
St. Louis 11 San Diego 3
L.A. Dodgers 5 Cincinnati 2

TODAY'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Seattle at Detroit, 10:05
Texas at Minnesota, 10:10
Kansas City at Boston, 10:35
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, 4:05
L.A. Angels at Toronto, 4:07
Cleveland at Chicago W. Sox, 5:11
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 4:05
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 4:10
Arizona at Florida, 4:10
Philadelphia at Houston, 5:05
Cincinnati at San Diego, 7:05

MEMORIAL CUP

SCHEDULE AND SCORES FOR THE CANADIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IN KITCHENER:
ROUND-ROBIN
Yesterday
Belleville 4 Kitchener 3 (OT)
SEMIFINAL
Tomorrow
Kitchener vs. Belleville, 4
FINAL
Sunday
Spokane vs. semifinal winner, 4

LOTTERIES

Lotto 6/49	03, 04, 07, 19, 28 & 32. Bonus 6.
B.C. 49	14, 21, 23, 32, 34 & 40. Bonus 20.
Extra	20, 28, 43, 83. Results not official

hockey

Bulls charge to overtime victory

PLAYOFFS Keaton Turkiewicz scored 8:55 into overtime to give the Belleville Bulls a 4-3 victory over the host Kitchener Rangers last night at the Memorial Cup.

The two teams will face off again tomorrow night in the semifinal game, with the winner facing the Spokane Chiefs in Sunday's final.

MLB

Pedro leaves Mets to be with ill father

FAMILY New York Mets pitcher Pedro Martinez has left the team to be with his ailing father in the Dominican Republic.

Martinez has been working to recover from a strained left hamstring and there were indications that he could be ready to rejoin the Mets by early June, but his family issues could delay his return.

NBA

Raptors duo go under the knife

INJURIES Toronto Raptors guard Anthony Parker and forward Andrea Bargnani each underwent surgery yesterday.

Parker's surgery was to repair a tendon on the middle finger of his right hand, while Bargnani had a procedure that removed his adenoids and repaired a deviated septum. Both players are expected to be fine in time for training camp.

tennis

Venus to play in first Rogers Cup

DEBUT World No. 8 Venus Williams confirmed her participation yesterday in this summer's Rogers Cup in Montreal.

The 28-year-old has never played in the event, which alternates between Toronto and Montreal. This year's tournament will be held from July 26 to Aug. 3.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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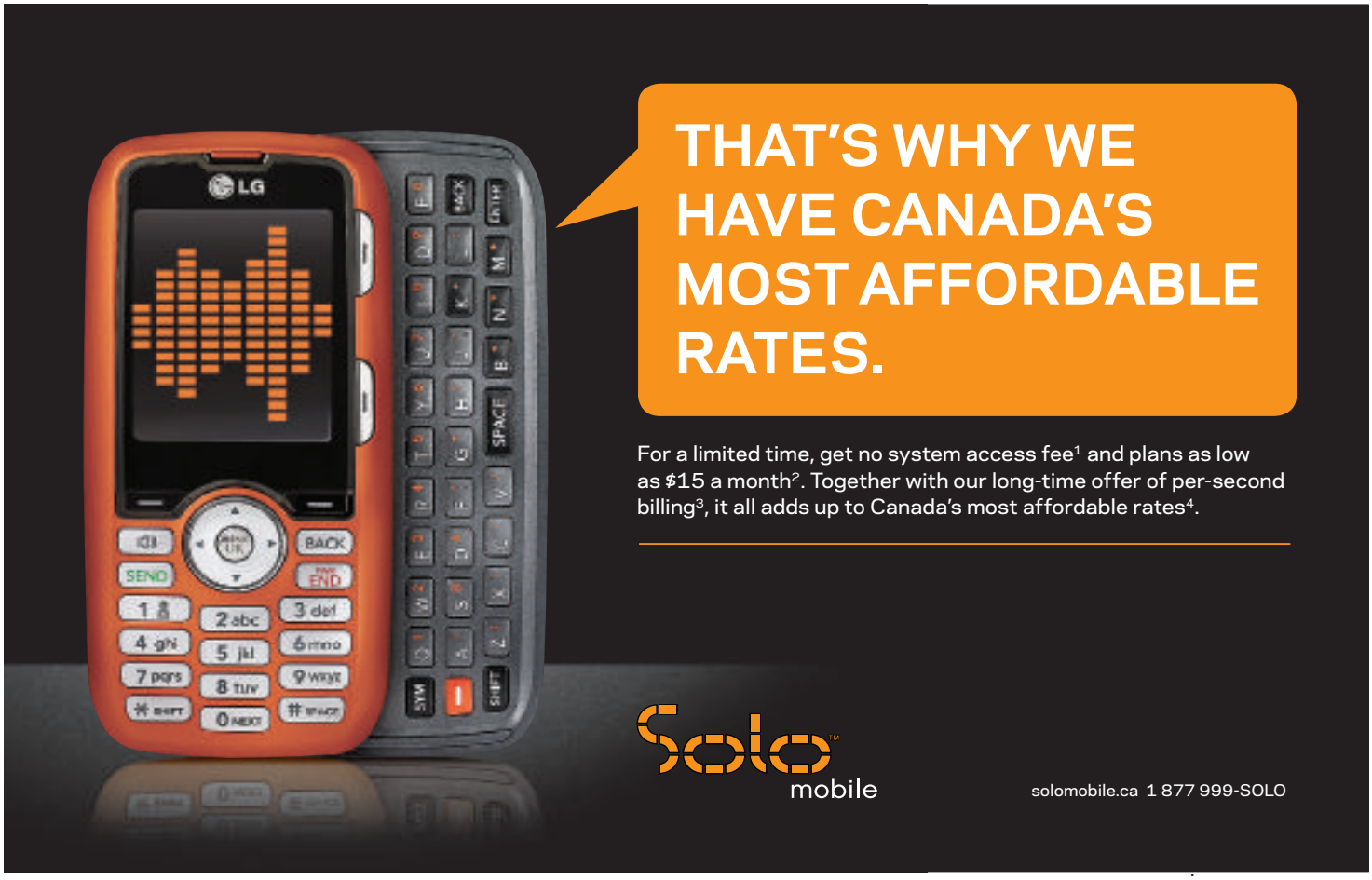
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Willowbrook Corner
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MAPLE RIDGE
Haney Place Mall

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PITT MEADOWS
Meadowtown Centre

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PRINCE GEORGE
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1008 West Georgia St.
1100 Robson St.
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1709 Lonsdale Ave.
2154 West 4th
2315 West 41st
Bentall Centre
Capilano Mall
Chinatown Plaza
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NHL could lose viewers to NBA

If you're anything like me, you can't wait to see the showcase of skill this year's Stanley Cup final seems poised to produce. But you have to anyway.

The league and many of its stakeholders argue the length is fine. But, five days is simply too long between the end of the third round and the start of the Cup final.

Yes, the true puck nut will still tune in, but the NHL loses any momentum it has created with the casual sports fan as a result of the lengthy break between games.

Contrast that with the NBA, which began the next round of its playoffs just two days after the last round ended. The NBA's consistent approach with the schedule could directly affect the viewing habits of the casual sports fan south of the border. Games 3, 4 and 5 of the Celtics/Pistons series will be played head-to-head with the first three games of the Stanley Cup between the Red Wings and Penguins.

TOUL BOX
SCOTT RINTOUL
scott.rintoul@metronews.ca

» Senator **Larry Campbell's** initiative to prevent the NFL from setting up shop in Canada has once again sparked an interesting debate among football fans in this country. A number of people within the football fraternity believe an NFL team in Toronto would initiate the death of the CFL and its corporate support.

Campbell argues that the CFL is part of the cultural fabric of this country and that it should be protected the same way that Canadian television is preventing American channels like ESPN and HBO from entering our airspace.

He also argues that "the NFL already has Canada" since millions of Canadians religiously tune in to the sport every Sunday.

Obviously, the best-case scenario is for the two leagues to harmoniously co-exist in Canada. This would send the strongest message about the strength of the CFL in this country. The problem is nobody trusts Toronto. Most believe that our nation's largest market would have no issue turning its back on the Canadian Football League if it was economically advantageous for the city.

Fortunately, the NFL has a vested interest in keeping the CFL strong and vibrant, and I don't believe the league would move north without guaranteed stability for the Canadian brand of football.

The notion that an American institution is more concerned with protecting a truly Canadian sport than this country's largest city is a very interesting commentary on Toronto's relationship with the rest of Canada.

» Want to weigh in? E-mail me at scott.rintoul@metronews.ca

How to make a Scott Rintoul: Mix equal parts college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. Shake vigorously. Serve chilled Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m. or online at thetoulbox.blogspot.com.

soccer

Whitecaps add Canadian defender

JOBS Vancouver Whitecaps FC announced yesterday the signing of defender Chris Pozniak — pending international clearance. Pozniak last played with Chivas USA of Major League Soccer.

"Chris brings a wealth of experience and quality to our back end," said Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi.

In four games with Chivas this season, the Canadian defender started three. Last year, Pozniak was a regular with Toronto FC before being taken by San Jose in the 2007 MLS Expansion Draft.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Polar bears walking on thin ice

SCIENCE MATTERS
DAVID SUZUKI & DR. FAISAL MOOLA

Last week, the U.S. government listed the polar bear as a threatened species under its Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Interior Department made the decision under pressure, including legal petitions, from environmental organizations.

Its reluctance to legally protect the species is evident in the caveats it has placed on the listing, most notably limiting the implications for U.S. climate change policy. Nevertheless, the ruling does give polar bears more protection in the U.S. than in Canada, despite similar pressure from conservation groups here.

In April, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed the polar bear (Ursus maritimus) as a species of "special concern" — which is one step below a "threatened" listing and two steps below "endangered" — but the government has not yet listed it as such under the federal Species at Risk Act.

The lesser designation reflects that the species was evaluated as a whole; some populations are declining, while others aren't yet showing it.

The bear is protected to some extent under provincial law: Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador have all listed it under provincial endangered species acts.

Thirteen of the world's 19 distinct polar bear populations — or 15,000 of the Arctic's 20,000 to 25,000 bears — live in Canada, with 12 of those populations living at least partly in Nunavut. Studies have found that numbers for five populations are declining. But the factors in those declines — including melting ice floes caused by global warming, habitat loss, overhunting of some populations, increased shipping traffic and oil and gas exploration, and persistent organic pollutants — may put other populations at risk as well.

Although Environment Minister John Baird acknowledged the role of global warming in commenting on the U.S decision, both the current government and the previous Liberal government have been dragging their feet on the issue.

With global warming opening up northern seaways to more shipping and oil and gas exploration, the federal government must do more to protect polar bear habitat, on land and at sea.

COSEWIC's recommendation that the polar bear be listed as "special concern" under the Species at Risk Act will go to government in August. Although a listing of "threatened" would lead to better protection, the "special concern" listing would at least require the federal government to prepare a management plan. Provincial and territorial protection is a patchwork approach; a national vision is needed. Baird must ensure that a management plan addresses the root of the problem by finding more ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Until this occurs, the polar bear will remain on thin ice.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at *www.davidsuzuki.org*.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is an award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster. He is the co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation in Vancouver where he lives with his wife and two daughters.

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Chemicals a risk to quake victims

Greenpeace issues warning

A chemical factory still operating in the area of China devastated by last week's earthquake poses a huge risk to local people and the environment, Greenpeace said yesterday.

Although impressed with the government's response to the crisis, the environmental pressure group said authorities must strengthen enforcement of a chemical production ban in the disaster zone.

"We have discovered at least one ... chemical factory which is secretly operating," Greenpeace campaigner Yue Yihua said in a statement on the group's website (*www.greenpeace.org*).

"We have notified the Ministry of Environmental Protection about such illicit operations."

Yue said Greenpeace, which sent a research team to the quake-hit southwestern province of Sichuan, had also raised concern about the placement of a relief camp for victims next to an aluminum sulphate factory that had ceased operation.

> *«The refugees had been drinking water untreated from a well behind the factory before they had any access to relief supplies.»*
>
> *Yue Yihua, Greenpeace spokesperson*

"The refugees had been drinking water untreated from a well behind the factory before they had any access to relief supplies," Yue said.

The areas hit hardest by the quake were not heavily industrialized but were home to zinc smelters, chemical factories and the country's chief nuclear weapons research lab.

China says it has ensured the safety of all key sites, while remaining alert to the threat of leaks, including radiation.

REUTERS

marine life

Pacific nations act to save tuna

RULES South Pacific nations have taken steps to shore up dwindling tuna stocks, banning licensed tuna vessels from fishing in international waters between their islands and requiring them to always carry observers.

The new rules, agreed to at a fisheries meeting in Palau on Tuesday, will take effect beginning June 15.

"This is an historic moment for the Pacific, its people, marine life and future food security," Lagi Toribau, Greenpeace Australia's Pacific Oceans campaigner said yesterday.

Toribau was speaking from the environmental group's ship Esperanza, which has pestered tuna vessels in the Pacific in recent weeks as part of a campaign against overfishing of tuna.

Worldwide stocks of bigeye tuna, a prime source for Japanese restaurants serving sushi and sashimi around the world, are on the verge of collapse from overfishing, say conservationists. REUTERS

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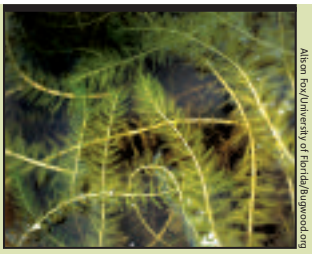

Alison Fox/University of Florida/bugwood.org

A

Leslie J. Mehrhoff/University of Connecticut/bugwood.org

B

Dave Brenner/Michigan Sea Grant

C

Can you identify these non-native invasive species? The three shown are Carolina fanwort, purple loosestrife and Eurasian watermilfoil.

Answers: A) Eurasian watermilfoil; B) Carolina fanwort; C) purple loosestrife.

If you've seen Finding Nemo, you know what a clownfish looks like. But can you recognize a Carolina fanwort or Eurasian watermilfoil? They're certainly not as cute as Nemo, but like clownfish, they are popular for aquariums.

Also unlike Nemo, these critters don't want to go home and can cause devastating consequences if released into the wild. Eurasian watermilfoil crowds out the native plants that animals need for food and chokes waterways, impeding swimming and boating.

It might seem kind to release an unwanted pet or plant into the wild, but this can turn even the cutest pet into an invader that devastates or devours native plants and animals. Consider the apparently cuddly Canadian beaver, introduced to Argentina for fur production. Our plucky beavers quickly got revenge by escaping, multiplying and destroying forests.

«It might seem kind to release an unwanted pet or plant into the wild, but this can turn even the cutest pet into an invader that devastates or devours native plants and animals.»

Unwanted pets might be a treasure to someone else, so consider trading, or donating to an aquarium, pet store, or elementary school. Otherwise, experts recommend freezing your aquatic pet in a block of ice. It might seem strange to have your goldfish chilling out in the freezer with your ice cream and frozen seafood, but that's the most humane way ... as far as killing goes. It's not our idea of fun, but neither is being flushed down the toilet!

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC. He's a transdisciplinary environmental researcher, integrating ethics and social and natural sciences. Veronica Lo is a M.Sc. student studying non-native species at UBC (and is herself non-native to B.C.).

project

Queen invests in wind energy

POWER Britain's Queen Elizabeth is going green by investing in the largest wind turbine in the world, her property company the Crown Estate said yesterday.

The Estate, which owns most of the seabed off Britain's shores, regularly leases out its land to wind farm projects but has never invested in the turbines.

With a capacity of 7.5 megawatts, the Crown has gone for the biggest yet.

"This is not something we've ever done before and I think it will raise quite a few eyebrows," said Ben Barton, the company's off-shore manager for wind farms.

Speaking at an energy conference in Aberdeen, Barton said the Crown Estate had decided to make the investment to help overcome turbine supply difficulties, which he said were a key constraint to the construction of off-shore wind farms.

REUTERS

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metro HOMErenos

Thursday, May 22, 2008

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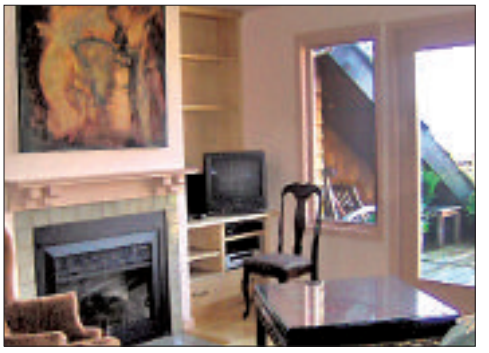

This Kitsilano townhome — as seen in these before, right, and after photos — was renovated by T.Q. Construction Ltd. and will be featured in the 15th Annual Parade of Renovated Homes on June 8.

Denizens of design

Renovated homes open to public early next month

By **ANDREA WOO**
for Metro Vancouver

If you've ever come by an impressive-looking house and wanted to peek inside without being arrested, the 15th Annual Parade of Renovated Homes is for you.

The parade, put on by the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association, will feature 16 homes renovated by nine companies. The public will be able to tour the houses and professional renovators will be onsite to field questions and offer advice.

Peter Simpson, CEO of the GVHBA, said the renovations range from about $70,000 to $525,000 — from modest to spectacular.

"It showcases leading-edge design, advance construction techniques, innovative building products and just what can be done with homes these days," he said.

One cramped Kitsilano townhouse was transformed into an airy, free-flowing space by relocating the kitchen and adding larger windows to maximize a great view. Another 1920s home in Vancouver was transformed into a bed-and-breakfast, mixing contemporary design with what Simpson calls "an old-world feel."

The remaining homes are scattered throughout the Lower Mainland, in Surrey, Port Coquitlam, Delta, New Westminster and the North Shore. To respect the privacy of the homeowners, the exact addresses will be posted on *gvhba.org* in early June.

According to the GVHBA, British Columbians will spend more than $7 billion on home renovations and improvement this year, with two-thirds of that in the Lower Mainland alone.

"People will be able to see how some of those dollars have been spent," said Simpson.

About 700 to 1,000 people are expected to attend the parade, which takes place on June 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by passport, which can be purchased for $10 at any home taking part in the parade, and children under 17 are free. Partial proceeds go toward a carpentry training program offered by Guilford Park and Frank Hurt schools in Surrey.

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The Ringling, right, is both a clever and stylish way to store rings and other small jewelry items; Umbra, $8.50 through *www.umbra.com*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Market serves up artisan home fashion

My favourite part of travelling abroad is wandering around the street markets. This is where I score weird and wonderful mementoes and souvenirs beyond those made in China (unless I'm in China, of course). Last December it was the massive Marche aux Puce de Vanves in Paris, where I wormed my way through the aisles of vintage goodies from political poster art to servingware. But whether the stall market is in Paris or Kyoto, the real attraction is catching some of the local vibe.

URBAN DWELLER
CARLYN YANDLE
carlyn.yandle@metronews.ca

The stall-marketplace is basically a foreign concept to Vancouverites — and most North Americans. Instead we have the mall. Portobello West bucks that trend. The expansive local artisans' market sets up on the last Sunday of every month at the Rocky Mountaineer train station (just west of Home Depot on Terminal).

It's the brainchild of Carly Smith, who missed London's stall shopping experience after she moved here several years ago. The name refers to the Portobello district that has been thriving for the last century, except Smith apparently envisioned a monthly market that was less "flea" and more "artisan." Not surprisingly, the concept is a hit with Vancouver's under-appreciated community of artists whose options for setting up stalls on a regular basis has been limited to cramped quarters like Granville Island Public Market. Judging by the throngs of humanity at last month's Portobello market, we're fully embracing the stall-market culture.

Although the market leans heavily toward body fashions, I was wall-eyed by table after table of unique, very-West Coast home fashion items, from cushions to floor mats to vases and dishes, all created by locals.

Portobello West takes place in an airy, all-season venue but it's not easy to get to without a vehicle. The VCC-Clark SkyTrain station is close as the crow flies, but there's a long, dull walk around the rail yards to get there. Alternatively, shoppers can take transit to Main and Terminal and hoof it to the market — no fun in the rain — or wait for one of the free shuttle buses that stop at the SkyTrain station every 20 minutes around the opening hours of noon and 6 p.m.

CARLYN YANDLE/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Mabel Taunu, here with her hand-painted reclaimed glassware, says Portobello West helps fill the void she felt here for the market-stall culture she loved back in London.

Hopefully the city's planning department sees the value of supporting a bustling home-grown artisan community and will provide some long-term solutions for ensuring the stall-market continues to thrive and is accessible to everyone. The next market is this Sunday. A toonie gets you in. See *vancouver.portobellowest.com*.

Carlyn Yandle is a Vancouver journalist with her own room-planning business, Home Reworks (www.homereworks.com). She dwells on urban-home issues every Thursday in Metro.

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Use décor to integrate reno with existing space

You can try to fool yourself about this one, but you won't fool anybody else. We've seen the unfortunate end result of spending money on a lovely addition while leaving the old, cruddy part of the house as it always was. Don't do it! We know that the marriage of old lived-in space and shiny new renovation doesn't work.

> *« Many people who renovate are trying to save money, so they actively avoid thinking about updating the 'old' part of their house.*

Be realistic in the planning stage of your renovation — you'll need to budget for bringing the whole house up to a reasonable level of "newness." Many people who renovate are trying to save money, and actively avoid thinking about updating the "old" part. (It's called sticking your head in the sand.)

But believe us, you'll end up shelling out cash to fix it up sooner or later, and it will probably be sooner, because you can't stand to look at that glaring discrepancy any longer. It will bug you every single day you live in that house — it would certainly drive us loco.

Luckily, there are some decor basics in minimizing that divide, and in making the house with a new addition look more unified. And the cost factor may be much lower than you think.

The first thing is to choose paint colour for the whole house — it must work together. Depending on the size of your reno, you can decide on the same colour for both the new section and the older one, or you can choose a complimentary colour that looks good with all the other tones in the house. Don't just paint the new section your favourite colour, and expect it to look good with the existing house. It won't

Trim is also important— baseboards, trim around windows and trim in any other place should be consistent. If you have wood trim in the old part, you will find that matching that trim is sometimes difficult, and wood nowadays is expensive. If you're doing a large reno, you may find that it is cheaper to rip out the old trimwork (ouch!), and replace it with the same painted MDF trim throughout the house. After all, if the discrepancy between old and new is the most visible thing about your house, your beautiful new space won't shine like it should.

ARRESTING DESIGN
JEFFREY FISHER & TAMMY SCHNURR
busted@arrestingdesign.com

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network. Tammy is an interior decorator. Jeffrey designs home furnishings and bedding through his company Jeffrey Fisher Home.

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Renovation revelations

Advance planning can build upon perfect home addition

By **SYLVIA PUTZ**
for Metro Vancouver

Our family is in the enviable position of being on the almost-finished side of a large addition and interior renovation. And overall, the reno was an incredible adventure for the family — one that we had dreamed about for years. We ended up with a gorgeous house that fits us like a glove. What could be better?

Well, getting there was not always as smooth as we wished. The process was actually fun most of the time, but in the final analysis, we realized that some of our mistakes ended up costing us a lot of extra cash.

In a nutshell, most of our mistakes were largely the result of not planning enough. For those of you contemplating doing a reno, here is our advice, straight from the school of hard knocks.

» Make changes during the planning stage, not the construction stage. Paul Catania of Verly Construction, the head of the company that managed our renovation, puts it plainly: "If it's well planned, and you work through the model at an early stage, you're set. Four months of doing that would have saved six months of work later on."

» Our architect Tony D'Andrea of Torplan Consultants Inc. agrees. "One of the biggest problems is that people don't give themselves enough time — give yourself at least six months for planning, and six to eight months for construction." He emphasizes that the planning must be thorough — including reviewing every aspect of the plan, city permit requirements, parking issues, and a myriad of other details.

» In our case, one of the things that we did wrong was to have hired an interior designer after drywall walls and ceilings were already in place. "It's a lot easier when you make changes before the drywall goes up," notes our on-site contractor Joe Rego, owner of Rego Contracting.

» Make decisions about precisely which fixtures and furniture you will buy as early as you can because the exact measurements of these items will dictate where switches, outlets and plumbing will be placed. Lina Pelaez, our construction coordinator from Verly Construction, notes wryly that these types of decisions should be made before she calls in the trades.

» Be realistic. If you are combining old and new parts of a house during a renovation, budget for uniformity. Don't leave the old part as is, alongside a completely new renovation.

» Our assumptions that we would stay in the house for the duration of the renovation became ridiculous once renovation started in the old part. Joe sums it up succinctly: "With a large reno, move out. That way the contractor has to opportunity to work everywhere, inside and out."

» He also advises that the construction site be emptied for a large project. Ours wasn't. "Freedom of movement makes a big difference in construction — it takes triple the time to move stuff up and down the stairs, and back again, and things are missed" when furniture is piled up along a wall. (Sorry about that, Joe.)

» Learn from your mistakes — you never know when you'll get the reno bug again.

SYLVIA PUTZ/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Sylvia Putz stands on her terrace. There is still lots of work to be done, but she hopes to be barbecuing by mid-summer.

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Reno mania consumes DIY-ers

Big-box stores offer workshops

By **RICK McGINNIS**
for Metro Vancouver

The giddy rise of house prices has made bricks and mortar real estate the surest investment most of us will make in our lifetimes, with the result that maintaining and upgrading our investment has become an international obsession. It's a phenomenon that's made hunky contractor Mike Holmes a star, and has filled primetime with countless reality DIY shows from Britain, the U.S. and Canada, all of which have turned homeowning into a continuing domestic drama more compelling than the cooking of meals or the raising of kids — the activities that once seemed to occupy centre stage in our homes.

What we've learned from these shows is that the resale value of our home can be increased with an updating of our bathroom fixtures or an upscale backsplash behind the kitchen counter, while building a nagging anxiety that, hidden behind the plaster and drywall lurks a fiscal liability that could devalue our investment, a fear that becomes livid with the odour of mould in the basement, or with the dreaded words "knob and tube wiring."

While watching the heroic endeavours of Holmes, the high-camp makeover extravagance of Colin and Justin or the bleak comedy of Disaster DIY on HGTV, the knowing homeowner can't help but keep a running tally of what they're seeing, marvelling that every new circuit breaker panel or expanse of glass bathroom tiling would cost at least a week's wages. To that end, we're encouraged to try and save money and do it ourselves, with the proviso that, if we screw it up, we'd might as well have blown that money at the racetrack and hope that the avocado green bathroom will go from tacky to retro by the time we decide to sell up and move.

PAUL BRADBURY/OJO IMAGES

We're encouraged to try and save money by renovating our homes ourselves, our writer says.

The biggest beneficiaries of the home reno mania have been big box stores such as Home Depot, Lowe's and Rona, and that boutique clubhouse for the house-proud obsessive, Lee Valley. They've made fortunes accessorizing our nesting, and have turned the hardware store from a storefront that smelled of paint and motor oil into vast warehouses, up to 120,000 square feet of drywall tape, flexible conduit and faucet sets that can strike the novice dumb with confusion.

They've also seen the need to teach us how to do all this stuff, right down to the basics of handing our brand new gear. ("Saving Time & Money Using Cordless Power Tool Combo Kits" is the name of a one-hour course Home Depot offers.) The workshops, seminars and clinics the DIY behemoths offer range from bluntly prescriptive ("Fence Building," "Deck and Fence Finishing" and "Laminate Floor Installation" are just three of the no-nonsense clinics Rona offers) to self-affirming (Home Depot's optimistic "You Can Install A Toilet" and "You Can Use A Mitre Saw to Build Frames") to the esoteric, and even academic (Lee Valley's seminars on "Design and Visualization" and "Women And Power Tools.")

Browsing the how-to offerings on the websites of the home reno stores, it becomes clear that, if only for liability's sake, none of them want to encourage us to aspire beyond a certain level of home reno competency. You might become a dab hand at drywalling or shingling one day, or aspire to replacing the plumbing fixtures in your kitchen and bathroom, but there are some jobs best left to professionals like plumbers and electricians, and the judgment of city inspectors. The pride and savings you might cherish at the end of a DIY endeavour is likely to wither away in the rosy glow of an electrical fire as it consumes the new addition you built to showcase your Star Wars memorabilia and add five grand to the resale value of your bungalow.

Cutting corners can be dangerous

Some reno work best left to pros

You might think that doing that home renovation project yourself is the way to go: You'll certainly save cash, and after all, it doesn't look that hard, does it?

But there are dangers to cutting corners, says Warren Kuchta, national installation merchant at Home Depot. Your job may be harder than it looks, and if you don't have the time, knowledge or experience needed to properly renovate, you could be costing yourself more money and time in the long run.

"You might think it's all really easy, but if you really want it to look right, you have to had done it a lot before," he says.

Among the most common projects people do themselves — and often poorly — Kuchta says, are floorings, kitchen renovations, plumbing and electricity, particularly dangerous work for those who don't have a firm grasp of what to do. He adds there's also a legal issue: Unless you're in the business, you probably won't know how to draft and submit plans in order to obtain building permits.

> *« It's not only about whether it's easy to do, it's about whether you have the time to do it. »*
> *Warren Kuchta of Home Depot*

Beyond the logistics of DIY, hiring someone in the know frees you up to enjoy your summer, Kuchta says, and not spend it working on a project you won't enjoy in the peak season.

"It's not only about whether or not it's easy to do, it's about whether or not you have the time to do it. What is your time worth? Is it worth hiring somebody who you know is going to do it right no matter what and you're going to be satisfied so you can enjoy it sooner, or are you really going to struggle with it for the next few months?" METRO NEWS SERVICES

building permits

If you're adding or altering your home in a major way, chances are you're going to need a building permit — a legal document that grants you permission to begin your project. To obtain one, you'll have to make sure your work complies with local community safety standards and building codes. If you go ahead without one, you could be denied insurance coverage, face higher permit or repair fees, or even be ordered to undo your work.

Now that you're nice and discouraged — here are some home renos you can do that don't require a permit, according to Homebase.ca:

- Replacement of stucco, siding or shingles with the same material used before
- Replacing doors, so long as the opening isn't altered
- Replacing an open landing and/or stairs
- Building fences
- Painting, patching, decorating
- Installing a cabinet or a shelf

Check with your local permits office for details on what you can and cannot do. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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ARE YOU RETAINING WATER?

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I love especially salty snacks	■	■
My joints feel swollen	■	■
I have cellulite	■	■
My clothes are tight	■	■
I don´t drink enough water	■	■

These are some clues that your body is retaining more than usual amounts of water. Cut your salt intake and try Apple Cider 600 as a solution!

I threw away my "fat" clothes!

"I hated myself for being so plump and heavy, while still eating chips and snacks! I started feeling like a couch potato and I was so tired of wearing baggy clothes or not wanting to be seen in a bikini.

Finally I made the decision to stop abusing my body and do something about my weight. My sister told me about Apple Cider 600, which had helped her lose weight, so I went to my pharmacist to ask about them. The pharmacist told me Apple Cider 600 is based on all natural vinegar and plant extracts, which would mainly help me get rid of any excess retained water weight, as well as helping my metabolism and digestion of fats.

I bought a package and I'm so glad I did! Apple Cider 600 is fantastic! I have been taking them now for 6 weeks and I'm thrilled. I feel so much lighter and confident. I simply took 3 tablets a day, as recommended, drank more water, watched my snack intake somewhat, and the pounds just came off gradually. So I have finally thrown away all my baggy clothes and treated myself to a new wardrobe - It's so much better than snacks!"

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- **Globe artichoke** - Stimulates the detox processes of the liver, lowers blood cholesterol, is a protective antioxidant and is well-known to reduce digestive problems.
- **Dandelion** - Works as a strong diuretic, a detoxifier and an antioxidant. It has been used for decades for eliminating retained fluids, stored commonly among the fat cells and soft tissue.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION

A professional renovator can transform your house into a dream home, but beware of fly-by-night contractors, the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association warns.

Buyer beware

Without records, no proof work was ever done

By **ANDREA WOO**
for Metro Vancouver

More than $7 billion will be spent on home renovations and improvement in B.C. this year, but the Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association estimates that about one-third of that will be going to the underground economy.

"(Some homeowners) deal with cash deals with some fly-by-night renovator who promises to do it soon and cheap and without them paying taxes," said Peter Simpson, CEO of the GVHBA. "If anything goes wrong, (the homeowners) are deemed by the law to be the contractors, so they're liable for everything."

John Friswell, president of both CCI Renovations and the GVHBA, said that when it comes to trying to get a renovation done under-the-table, horror stories are plentiful.

"There was one that I heard about where the guy did a job for about $30,000 — everything in cash — then turned around and sued the homeowner for not paying him," he said. "The homeowner had to pay him (another) $30,000 because (the renovator) could prove that he did the work, but the homeowner couldn't prove that he had paid him."

Friswell said that those considering a renovation should go through reliable avenues such as the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation or the GVHBA. From there, they can ask for referrals, do background checks and have comprehensive discussions about what is affordable and realistic.

Homeowners should also expect a waitlist for reputable renovators.

"Some of our guys are booked into next year already," said Simpson. "If someone bangs on your door and says, 'I can start next week,' there's a reason that guy is able to start next week: He doesn't know what he's doing."

Graham Reid, president of MP Construction Ltd., emphasized the importance of thorough planning effort before any action is taken.

"The best money spent will be the money they spend on organizing a blueprint," he said.

when renovating:

- Be realistic about your finances
- Get everything in writing
- Ask for referrals
- Do background checks on renovators and contractors
- Never pay in full upfront

canada's underground economy

- The underground economy refers to economic activity that is taxable, but isn't reported to tax authorities.
- Certain sectors are more vulnerable to underground activity such as construction and hospitality.
- Taking cash to avoid paying tax is cheating Canadians who do pay their taxes, businesses that have to compete with lower prices, and customers and workers who may not be covered if disaster strikes.
- It's a myth that taking cash and keeping no records makes you immune to taxes. If your lifestyle is not in line with the income you report, and you cannot explain the difference, your taxes will be assessed anyway based on an estimate of your income. You might then have to pay interest, penalties and even face prosecution.
- Cheaters do get caught as the Canada Revenue Agency has an aggressive program to detect and deter those Canadians who do not report their income.
- For more, go to the Taxpayer Alert section of *www.cra.gc.ca*, and click on the Underground Economy link.

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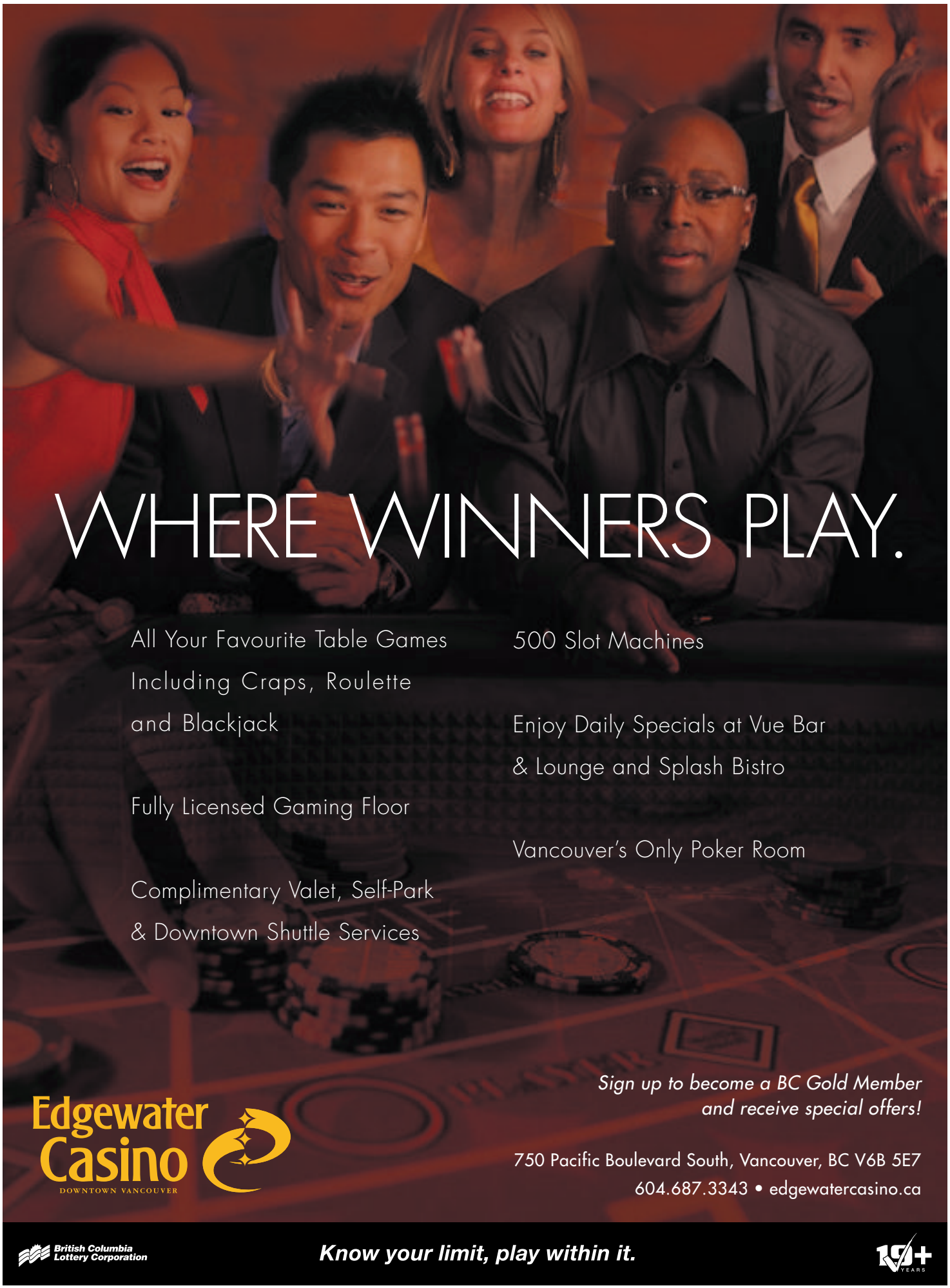
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Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, left, has revealed she is the new face of luxury brand Tod's. PEOPLE.COM

Hedley leads MMVA nominations

» Canadian rockers Hedley have been nominated for six MuchMusic Video Awards, organizers announced yesterday.

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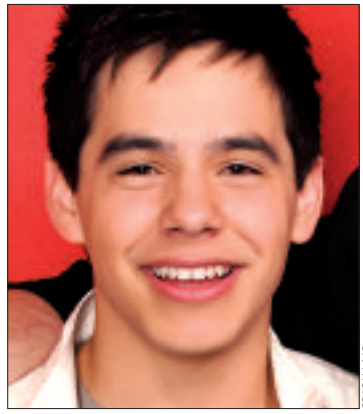
Indiana Jones is rated (PG)
Times are subject to change.



CTV PHOTOS

David Cook, left, and David Archuleta faced off on the finale of American Idol.

Cook serves up Idol victory

By **SANDY CAETANO**
for Metro Vancouver

David Cook, the rocker and former bartender from Blue Springs, Mo., was crowned this season's champion during last night's star-studded two-hour finale of American Idol.

It was a surprise the all-American boy next door David Archuleta, 17, wasn't the one to win since all the girls seemed to have gone crazy for him. But he lost to his fellow competitor by a difference of 12 million votes. It was the highest number of votes ever in American Idol history, after 97.5 million votes were cast for the final two, smashing the record by more than 23 million.

Last night's finale featured the return of the Top 12, including Cook and Archuleta, who opened the show with a group number followed by another performance of Chad Kroeger's Hero by the final two.

Promoting the film The Love Guru, coming out June 20, and offering advice to Cook and Archuleta was Guru Pitka, also known as Emmy Award-winning Canadian actor, comedian, screenwriter and film producer Mike Myers.

> « *I started this season … as the word nerd, and I'm very much at a loss for words.* »
>
> *David Cook*

Among last night's celebrity performers were Seal, Donna Summer, who sang her new single Stamp Your Feet, Canadian singer/songwriter Bryan Adams, ZZ Top, Graham Nash, The Jonas Brothers and One Republic. George Michael even made an appearance coinciding with his first tour in 17 years starting in San Diego June 17.

And to add a few laughs was Renaldo Lapuz, who tried out for the competition earlier on in the season, to perform the song he wrote for judge Simon Cowell called We Are Brothers Forever.

Jordin Sparks, last season's American Idol winner, and Carrie Underwood also made appearances.

"For the first time ever I don't really care who wins," said Cowell, commenting on how great both the final competitors are.

"I started this season … as the word nerd, and I'm very much at a loss for words," said Cook after the results were read, before singing his new single Time Of My Life.

Floyd, Fleming win Polar Music Prize

British rock band Pink Floyd and American soprano Renee Fleming were awarded Sweden's annual Polar Music Prize yesterday, joining an eclectic group of winners including Paul McCartney, Elton John, Quincy Jones and Joni Mitchell.

The group and the opera singer will receive cash prizes of 1 million Swedish crowns ($169,500 US) each at a ceremony held in Stockholm on Aug. 26, a Polar Prize spokeswoman said.

The award, given each year by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, is the country's biggest music prize.

It was founded in 1989 by Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA.

The prize committee lauded the 49-year-old soprano's beautiful voice and astounding clarity.

"Connoisseurs and the broader audience alike fall for her soft, natural singing technique," the committee said. REUTERS

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Hannah Montana star Miley Cyrus, right, will release the first full-length album under her own name on July 22. Breakout comes on the heels of two albums tied to her title role as Hannah Montana. REUTERS

controversy

Nas tones down album's name

Nas

RELEASE Rapper Nas has ditched his controversial plan to call his new album N*gger.

"It's important to me that this album gets to the fans," Nas said in a statement, referring to likely problems promoting and distributing the album.

"The people will always know what the real title of this album is and what to call it."

The untitled project will be released July 1 via Def Jam.

Last year, Nas announced the original title in response to the stir caused by former CBS radio host Don Imus' comments toward the Rutgers women's basketball team. But he recently told MTV that he was being pressured to change the title.

His last album, 2006's Hip-Hop Is Dead, has sold 757,000 copies in the U.S., according to Nielsen SoundScan.

courts

Boy band mogul gets 25 years

Pearlman

LAW Boy band mogul Lou Pearlman, who launched Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, was sentenced to 25 years in prison yesterday for swindling investors and major U.S. banks out of more than $300 million. But U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharp gave Pearlman the chance to cut his prison time by offering a one-month reprieve for every $1 million in cash he helps a bankruptcy trustee recover for his victims.

Theoretically, Pearlman could cancel his entire 300-month sentence by repaying the $300 million debt.

His lawyer, Fletcher Peacock, said in a written plea that 25 years amounted to a "sentence to death in prison" for the 53-year-old before the fraud scheme collapsed.

REUTERS

More twists than Indy's whip

Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull

Stars Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchette, Shia LaBeouf

Director Steven Spielberg **PG-13**

By CHRIS ATCHISON
for Metro Vancouver

REVIEW Film fans young and old will be hard-pressed to miss the smile creeping across their face when they hear John Williams' famed score and see that trademark fedora make its first big screen appearance in 19 years, in a much-anticipated re-introduction to the greatest adventure character of all time.

It's a welcomed reunion and from its opening scenes, it's clear that Indiana Jones And The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull is equal parts homage to the beloved series and progression of the archaeologist's perennially exciting story.

In this installment, an evil corps of Russians is hunting down the mysterious and powerful crystal skull, an ancient Mayan relic said to predate the Egyptian pyramids.

Jones (Harrison Ford), accompanied by a misfit named Mutt Williams (an impressive performance by Transformers' Shia LaBeouf), sets out on a journey to find the skull and figure out the secrets behind its alleged powers before the Soviets net the treasure and possibly gain an upper hand in the raging Cold War.

Along the way, Jones reunites with Marion Ravenwood (Raiders Of The Lost Ark's Karen Allen) and joins forces with a host of characters including his treasure-hunting partner Mac (Ray Winstone).

Harrison Ford and Cate Blanchette in the latest Indiana Jones film.

And that's about all that can be said about the plot of the new Indiana Jones flick without giving away key details — but it should be noted that this story line has more twists than Indy's whip, making for a fun ride from start to finish.

Director Steven Spielberg and writer-producer George Lucas have indeed brought Dr. Jones back in style.

The action sequences come fast and furious and Indy is still up to the task — at 65, Ford still makes a believable, appropriately weathered, swashbuckler — while screenwriter David Koepp (War Of The Worlds) adds ample references to the passing of time since we last saw our hero ride off into the sunset at the finale of Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade.

That's a key reason why this series has worked so well and still resonates with audiences. Indiana Jones is a vulnerable hero. He ages and shows it, he makes mistakes and has his vulnerabilities — namely a fear of snakes, his love for Marion and a desire for altruism over greed.

While the dialogue plods at times and a few scenes are more than a little far-fetched (but then again, which of the Indiana Jones films don't have their fair share of outrageous story elements?), The Kingdom Of The Crystal Skull is pure summertime blockbuster joy.

Fox comfortable in race for ratings

IDIOT BOX

RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

HERE WE GO AGAIN: Every year around this time, after the tumbrels have rolled and the blade has come down on the last of the year's failed shows, the numbers are crunched and the cumulative ratings winner of the TV season just ended is announced. For the last few years the big news is usually that Fox has done well, really well, and has either threatened to unseat NBC or CBS for their customary post at the top of the ratings ladder.

It's a funny ritual — if you find ratings tallies and the imprecise language of demography funny. (I do, which is why you don't want to invite me to parties.) CBS' presumed lead for the last few years has been harder to defend, as Fox has taken the lead in more and more key ratings demographics, and has been unofficially crowned winner-in-every-way-that-matters for at least the last two years.

It's been an irritating little ritual to watch, year after year, and it sometimes seemed like the squeamishness about the obvious truth was motivated by the continued perception of Fox as the upstart, the scrawny fox set among the regal network chickens. After reading the roundups, with their careful parsing of the ratings, I always wanted to hit the caps key on my keyboard and writing something like FOX IS THE NUMBER ONE NETWORK, GET USED TO IT.

This year, however, the Los Angeles Times says the Nielsen numbers have awarded Fox "the largest audience in prime time." The big "but" to the story is the dismal 2007-08 season Fox's ascension to the throne feels like being crowned king of some plague-wracked, war-ravaged kingdom.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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Actress Scarlett Johansson, left, has denied she snubbed the premiere of Woody Allen's latest movie Vicky Cristina Barcelona because movie bosses refused to cater to her diva demands. She was absent because of unavoidable "scheduling conflicts," her rep said. IMDB.COM

Get Body Shop best-sellers for less

FRUGAL FASHIONISTA
NATHALIE-ROZE FISCHER
nrfrugalista@rogers.com

Prices Lowered at Body Shop

STARTING THIS week, **The Body Shop** is establishing pricing parity with the US on some of its top-selling products. This is fab news for the many fans of this eco-friendly line of dreamy lotions and potions, known for a longtime commitment to fair trade with developing nations.

Hundreds of the chain's already accessibly priced items, including favourites such as Coconut Body Butter, Vitamin E Eye Cream and the Tea Tree Oil Face Wash, will now be marked with a Canadian flag symbol throughout the store, so customers can easily identify their savings.

Bonus: shoppers who sign up for The Body Shop Love Your Body program will score an additional 10 per cent off these lowered prices. Visit *www.the-bodyshop.ca.*

Old Navy Deals

GOT TO love the sale racks at **Old Navy**. Where else can a frugalista enjoy the thrill of leaving with a full bag of goodies for under $50? Right now, check out the wedge-heeled espadrille sandals with strappy ankle ties in stretchy jersey (just $25, reg. $40), over-sized clutches with chunky wooded closures (now $4.99, reg. $28), plus all kinds of pretty summer tops and frocks going for $7 to $19 a piece.

Make sure to comb the racks in the maternity section too, where all kinds of curve-friendly options abound for under $40.

Sample Sale Tonight!

MAKE SURE to scoot over to 511 Carrall St. (at Pender) between 4 to 9 p.m. today and scoop up the deals at the semi-annual **Designer Sample Sale**. Local labels Allison Wonderland, Dust, Erin Templeton, Lustre Jewellery and others will be selling their wares at discount prices you won't want to miss out on.

Baby Bling at Portabello West

ANYONE PREGGERS or in the market for a fab baby gift should make their way to this Sunday's **Portobello West Fashion and Art Market** (May 25). The increasingly funky London-style market features over 80 local fashion designers and artisans once a month. And, this edition is a total baby bonanza. Expect to find super cute wearables and gifts for the miniature folk on your shopping list, including swish jewellery by **Sparkling Baby**, tough and stylish leather bibs by **Mally Bib** as well as **Homeworks'** quirky-sweet home décor items.

Where: Rocky Mountaineer Station (1755 Cottrell St. off of Terminal Ave.), 12 to 6 p.m.

The Body Shop favourites like Coconut Body Butter, Vitamin E Eye Cream and Tea Tree Oil Fash Wash are now priced at parity with US products.

Nathalie-Roze Fischer is an eco-accessories designer, hardcore bargain-hunter, style writer and DIY enthusiast. Visit her online at www.nathalie-roze.com.

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Everything plaid is new again

STYLE FILE
KIM ELBO
kim.elbo@metronews.ca

ask kim

I always have this annoying little muffin top every time I try on a pair of jeans. What can I do to get rid of it?

Well besides the obvious, working out — which I'm sure you already are doing — try on a pair of jeans with a slightly higher rise. A lot of designer jean companies are coming out with rises that are slightly higher than their low-rise cuts so make sure you ask around for that.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@metronews.ca.

With a passion for recognizing the purpose and beauty of fashion, I shop and travel filling you in on the latest styles, events and tips in my column, Style File.

$50

Classic
Try it on strapless.
Designer: Roxy. Shop at West49. Various Locations | west49.com

$55

Unique
My favourite.
Designer: Hurley. Shop at Riot. 1395 Commercial Drive

$70

Essential
Beach worthy.
Designer: Billabong. Shop at Exposure. Various Locations

$100

Crop
Goes with everything.
Designer: Domino. Shop at Plenty. Various Locations | getplenty.com

$240

Wide-Leg Trouser
My favourite. Designer: Paige. Shop at Eden. 1042 Hamilton St. paigepremiumdenim.com

$262

Deconstructed
Comfortable.
Designer: Paige. Shop at Holt Renfrew. 737 Dunsmuir St. | holtrenfrew.com

plaid

The fall and winter staple has worked its way into the spring and summer months changing its colour as it moves into seasons, shedding its festive red uniform to show off its true multi-coloured layers. This season's plaid will be seen in a multitude of colours from blues to greens and purples. Try wearing plaid in a casual summer dress like the ones pictured or try it in a Bermuda short and wear with a plain tank.

accessorize

A perfect summer tote for the beach. $40 Available at West49.

jeans

There are only three styles in jeans that you should have your eye out for this summer: The wide-leg jean pant, the deconstructed casual jean and the ankle-cropped skinny jean. The wide-leg jean can fit like a trouser and can be worn with contemporary button down blouses. The skinny cropped jean is a "go with anything"-type pant and the deconstructed jean is perfect for those casual summer days where all you want to wear is a pair of flops and a tee.

pssst...

Today from 4-9 p.m. at the Erin Templeton Boutique (511 Carrall St. @ Pender) you can buy samples from Allison Wonderland, Dust, Erin Templeton, Refine Jewelry, Imaginary Friend, Lustre Jewelry, plus vintage and more!

tip

Find a jean that fits correctly. The best trick is to buy your jeans as tight as possible so long as the zipper doesn't pull. That way the jeans will stretch and form to your body rather than bag out. – Paige Denim

»going out

9 p.m. DJs Judge Jules and Utah Saints spin as part of 10 Days of Ibiza closing party. At Plush Nightclub, 750 Pacific Blvd. Tix: $35. Info: *10daysofibiza.com.*

9 p.m. Five-year anniversary party: Valley of the Kings. At Caprice Nightclub, 967 Granville St. Info: *capricenightclub.com.*

9 p.m. DJ sets by Fastlife, with Treasure Fingers, Kill The Noise and Datarock. At Republic, 958 Granville St. Tix: $20. Info: *dhmbars.ca.*

9 p.m. Funk You with Detroit DJ Rickie Orion and guests. At Celebrities Night Club, 1022 Davie St. Tix: $15-$18 door. Info: *celebritiesnightclub.com.*

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	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/22/08	251	308	3 CBC	News (CC)	Just-Gags	The Nature of Things (CC)		Doc Zone		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	Cash Queens of Music		Scream Queens: Women of Horror: True Story				News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		News	Interactive	Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		South Park
	250	321	9 CTV	So You Think You Can Dance (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				Grey's Anatomy "Freedom" (Season Finale) (N) (CC)				News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	According-Jim	The Simpsons	Coach (CC)	Coach (CC)	The Standard	Messages	Cold Case "Our Boy Is Back"		New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Deal or No Deal (N) (CC)			Last Comic Standing (Season Premiere) (N)			News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Big Bang Th	According-Jim	Smallville "Bizarro" (CC)		Medium "The Boy Next Door"		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty "Jump" (CC)		The Bachelorette (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				Realty TV
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	Smallville "Bizarro" (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(:01) Without a Trace (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Deal or No Deal (N) (CC)			Last Comic Standing (Season Premiere) (N)			News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Divine Design	House	Confidential	House	Wasted!	House	House
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty "Jump" (CC)		Grey's Anatomy "Freedom" (Season Finale) (N) (CC)				News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Avalanche Express ★★ (1979) Robert Shaw, Lee Marvin.				Will & Grace	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Ask This Old	The Happiness Prescription With Deepak Chopra (CC)				He Touched Me		Steps-Extend
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Phoenix Mars Mission		Red Green	Time Goes By	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		This Old Hse.	Hometime
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville "Bizarro" (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Last Comic Standing (CC)			Late Late
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Planet Earth "The Future"		National
	500	500	43 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		FullTiltPoker.net		Simply	Canucks TV	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NBA Basketball: Conf. Final		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		EURO Classic Soccer (N)		Poker Night (Taped) (CC)		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Everest: Man	Jet Set (CC)	Mark Williams
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		The Spin With Steve Kouleas.		Score Update		Score Update		Score Update
	417	406	55 SC	Low Life	Low Life	Pinks	Pass Time	Monster Jam		Pinks -- All Out		Low Life
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán		Gol TV News		AC Milan Channel		Gol TV News		Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Mon. Warriors	Futurama	Shadow	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Road Runner	Scooby Doo	Futurama	Chicken	Tripping-Rift	Chicken	Chicken	Tripping-Rift
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Naturally	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	The Suite Life
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Dragon	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Crazy Quilt	Treetown	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Profiles of Nature (CC)		Big Ideas	e2 (CC)	Obachan's Garden One woman's endurance. (CC)				In Korea
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Dedicated (N)		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed "Partners"
	570	580	24 MM	Messed Up-Memorable		Punk'd (CC)	Gone Wild	The O.C. "The Homecoming"		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		NewMusic
	600	564	29 H&G	Handyman Superstar		Holmes on Homes		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Disaster DIY	The Big Flip	Handyman
	615	520	31 A&E	Crime 360 (N) (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		Crime 360
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) TNA iMPACT! (N) (CC)		The Ultimate Fighter (CC)		84 Countdown		World's Most Amazing Videos		Bullrun (CC)
	521	560	34 TLC	Miami Ink "Ami Animates" (N)		American Chopper (CC)		Miami Ink "Ami Animates"		Overhaulin' "Scout's Honor"		Rides (CC)
	616	522	39 SHO	ReGenesis "Baby Bomb"		Intelligence "Love and War"		G-Spot (CC)	Exes & Ohs	The Shield "Exiled" (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Mary Reilly	Bravonews	Law & Order "White Rabbit"		Without a Trace "The Bus"		Mary Reilly ★★ (1996) Julia Roberts. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Biggest Loser Australia (CC)		Rich Bride, Poor Bride (CC)		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser Australia (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	MythBusters (CC)		Daily Planet "Goes West 4"		Daily Planet		Animal Face-Off Colossal squid; sperm whale.		
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "The Immortals" (CC)		Total War "Battle of Verdun"		Total War (CC)		NCIS "The Immortals" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Night Stalker (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Sentinel"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Alias (CC)
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Diary of a Mad Black Woman ★★ (CC)			Sex and-City	Sex and-City	(:40) Anaconda ★ (1997) (PA) Jennifer Lopez, Ice Cube. (CC)			
	619	525	48 TROP	Inside Hollywood (CC)		ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	52 FN	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Iron Chef America (CC)		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Jon Dore	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Transformers ★★★ (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson. (CC)					Little Miss Sunshine ★★★ (2006) (CC)			Transformers
	581	566	101 MTV	Made "Ballroom Dancer" (N)		MTV Live (CC)		The Real World (CC)		Made "Ballroom Dancer"		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) The Solid Gold Cadillac		Emily of New Moon (CC)		The Solid Gold Cadillac ★★★ (1956) Judy Holliday. (CC)				May-Dec.
	-	-	105 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Vancouver	Main Office	Teri Meri	Sadabahar	Mor Deo Koi	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

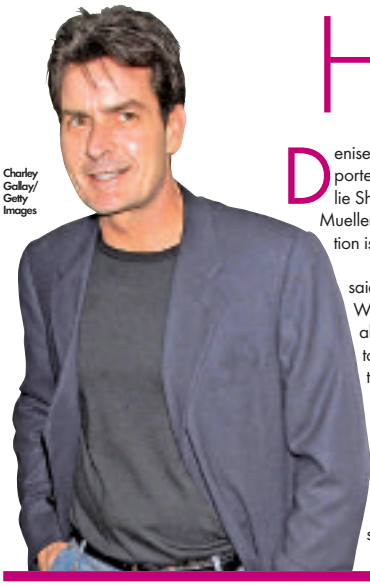
critics'corner

So You Think You Can Dance
"American Idol" is over for another season, but if you like star-making competitions, its dance counterpart is back for another season. Like "Idol," it starts out presenting the highlights and lowlights from auditions around the country, so if you enjoy watching the cluelessly untalented make fools of themselves on national television, now's the time to watch. Cat Deeley returns as host. 7 PM on CTV

Phoenix Mars Mission: Ashes to Ice
Bring on the little green men! OK, just kidding, but looking for life on the Red Planet — any kind of life — is what the Phoenix Mars Mission is all about. The spacecraft is scheduled to touch down this weekend and start searching for evidence of the water that scientists believe used to be prevalent on Mars. And where there's water, there's the possibility of life. This new special chronicles the project from the prep stage to liftoff. 7 PM on PBS

celebritybuzz

He said She said


Charley Gallay/ Getty Images

Denise Richards says an email purported to be from her to ex Charlie Sheen's now-fiancee Brooke Mueller asking for his sperm donation is "not legitimate."

"It's a doctored e-mail," she said on the Today show Wednesday when asked about the e-mail, which came to light during her divorce battle with Sheen. "I would never send an e-mail to [Mueller], and, at the time of that e-mail, I was with [Richie Sambora]. If I wanted anybody's sperm, I'd have asked for Richie's," she said. Sheen said in a statement to Today that Richards' claims are "absurd."

"The mere fact the she continues to publicly discuss and harass both Brooke and me three years after our separation which, for the record is longer than the actual length of the marriage, is beyond desperate and speaks volumes," he said. Sheen added: "I will no longer sit back and be egregiously painted as a liar. If any proof can be established that these are not in fact her words and statements verbatim, I openly invite her and would even encourage Ms. Richards to sue me in a court of law." On Tuesday, Richards also blamed the media for her breakup with Sambora, saying they suggested she came between the musician and his ex-wife, Heather Locklear. "They (Sambora and Locklear) were getting divorced; he and I were friends and it happened," Richards told Larry King. "And she had moved on. She was already involved with someone else at the time. It (the press coverage) affected, I think, the circumstances. It was very difficult to sustain a relationship. We were so slammed in the press ... but I did not split up their marriage."

Metro News Services

Mark Mainz/ Getty Images

Whitney cleared

A judge in Hawaii has dropped misdemeanour drug charges against Whitney Houston. According to imdb.com, the judge has dropped charges, which related to an incident in 2000 when she was suspected of possessing marijuana while going through a Hawaiian aiport with ex-hubby Bobby Brown. Houston's record label has said she's been free from illegal substances for three years now.

Metro News Services

Frederick M. Brown/ Getty Images

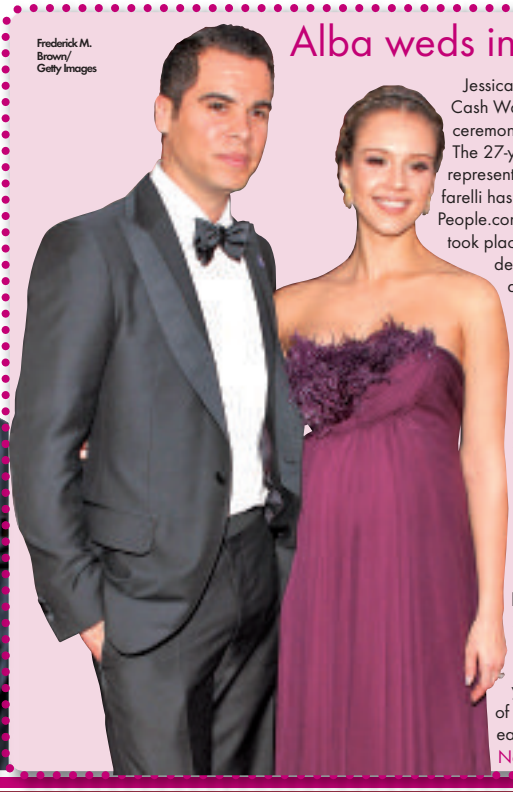
Jana Birchum/ Getty Images

Is Billy Bob buggin'?

Billy Bob Thornton is at the centre of a bizarre new police report filed by his former sister-in-law, according to Tmz.com. Elysabeth Cherniak claims the actor has bugged her home and regularly sends her insulting emails. According to a LAPD report she filed, Thornton has been harassing Cherniak – the sister of the actor's fourth wife Pietra – for almost two years. A spokesman for the actor says, "Billy doesn't use e-mail and never has. Anyone who knows him would know that."

Metro News Services

Alba weds in secret


Frederick M. Brown/ Getty Images

Jessica Alba married Cash Warren in a secret ceremony on Monday. The 27-year-old actress's representative Brad Cafarelli has confirmed to People.com a wedding took place, but no other details were made available. Alba is currently eight months pregnant with their first child. The Fantastic Four actress recently said of her relationship with Warren, who she met on the set of the 2005 superhero movie, "It wasn't lust, or 'this is my soul mate.' It was, 'Oh, I'm going to know you for the rest of my life.' It was easy." Metro News Services

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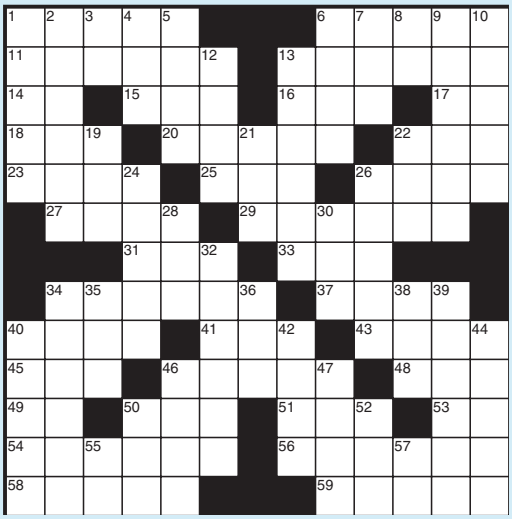

down »

1 Dance move
2 Sympathize
3 Kind of radio
4 Strut along
5 Crackle
6 Sluggish
7 Galleon cargo
8 "Tao — Ching"
9 Just bought
10 Tex-Mex dip
12 Phony coin
13 Memory glitches
19 Censor
21 Cry of disdain
22 Before, in verse
24 Magnate
26 Skilled person
28 Telegraph signal
30 Cry of discovery
32 Mention casually
34 Like always
35 Many millennia
36 — Kippur
38 Heat source
39 Salad follower
40 Heavy hammers
42 Neglect
44 Keen
46 Uh-huh
47 First name in fashion
50 HBO receivers
52 Pipe fitting
55 Element 44
57 — Havre

across »

1 Seizes unscrupulously
6 Water lily
11 Slot-machine fruits
13 Golfer — Ochoa
14 Midwestern st.
15 Good buddy
16 Back when
17 Safety-testing org.
18 Bit of paint
20 Cuddly pet
22 Dangerous curve
23 Coup d'—
25 Neon or nitrogen
26 Length x width
27 Tennyson heroine
29 Chaired
31 Aunt, in Madrid
33 Any woman
34 Tidily
37 Church alcove
40 Satellite
41 London lav
43 Winery casks
45 Son of Val and Aleta
46 Delicious
48 Utmost degree
49 Doubtful answer
50 Media mogul — Turner
51 Common contraction
53 Egyptian god
54 Butterflies-to-be
56 Money handler
58 Spring melt
59 Hit the hay

previous answer

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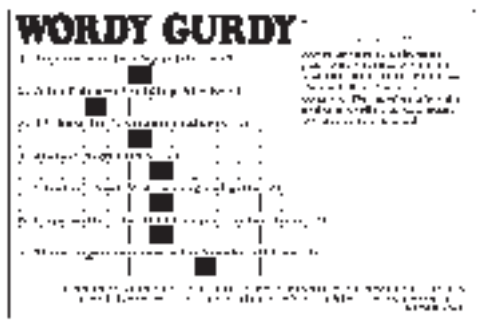


HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
A stunning defeat will sadden a loser. A woman will tell a lie for good reasons. You need to recuperate from a risky deed.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
Be calm with a brash admirer. Dealing with roadwork becomes vexing. Be discreet with a money-making scheme.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Making progress will ease your stress. An unexpected sight has you in a tizzy. Help someone out of a financial bind.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
Watch out for wonderful opportunities. Poor conduct will be laughed off. Friends will force you to reassess your life.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
Change your mind about making demands. Avoid a confrontation with a bore. A sensational find will cause some healing.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
An authority figure wants to help out. A new path will alter your love life. Step in to rescue difficult people.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
Anxiety about a miserable situation will subside. An important person's power will be decreased. Physical discomfort can be relieved.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
Reconciliation between workers takes place. You'll be able to endure tremendous emotions. An aversion is clear to everyone.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
A profound meaning will be found. Someone will fail to agree with you. Simply ignore an unsophisticated comment.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
A wimpy male has an exciting tale. Understanding will free you from a promise. A lover gets a lesson in emotions.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
An idea will bring out the best in a male. Freedom is declared by a former coward. Avoid impulsively casting blame.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Don't demand agreement from strangers. Being helpful will lead to news. A marriage is followed by a strange reaction.

AVATAR VENUS

		3				1		
	7		9		2		8	
5	4						7	3
		2	3		1	6		
4								9
		5	4		7	8		
1	3						4	8
	5		1		8		6	
		8				9		

instructions »

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time »

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

1	4	5	9	8	3	6	2	7
3	9	8	2	6	7	5	4	1
2	6	7	4	1	5	9	3	8
9	3	4	8	5	2	1	7	6
7	1	6	3	9	4	8	5	2
5	8	2	6	7	1	3	9	4
8	7	3	1	2	9	4	6	5
6	5	9	7	4	8	2	1	3
4	2	1	5	3	6	7	8	9

This Day IN HISTORY

May 22, 1992: After 30 years, 66-year-old Johnny Carson hosts The Tonight Show for the last time.

May 22, 1990: The Windows 3.0 operating system is released by Microsoft.

May 22, 1960: An earthquake measuring 9.5 on the moment magnitude scale, now known as the Great Chilean Earthquake, hits southern Chile. It is the most powerful earthquake ever recorded.

Metro News Services

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network
theweathernetwork.com

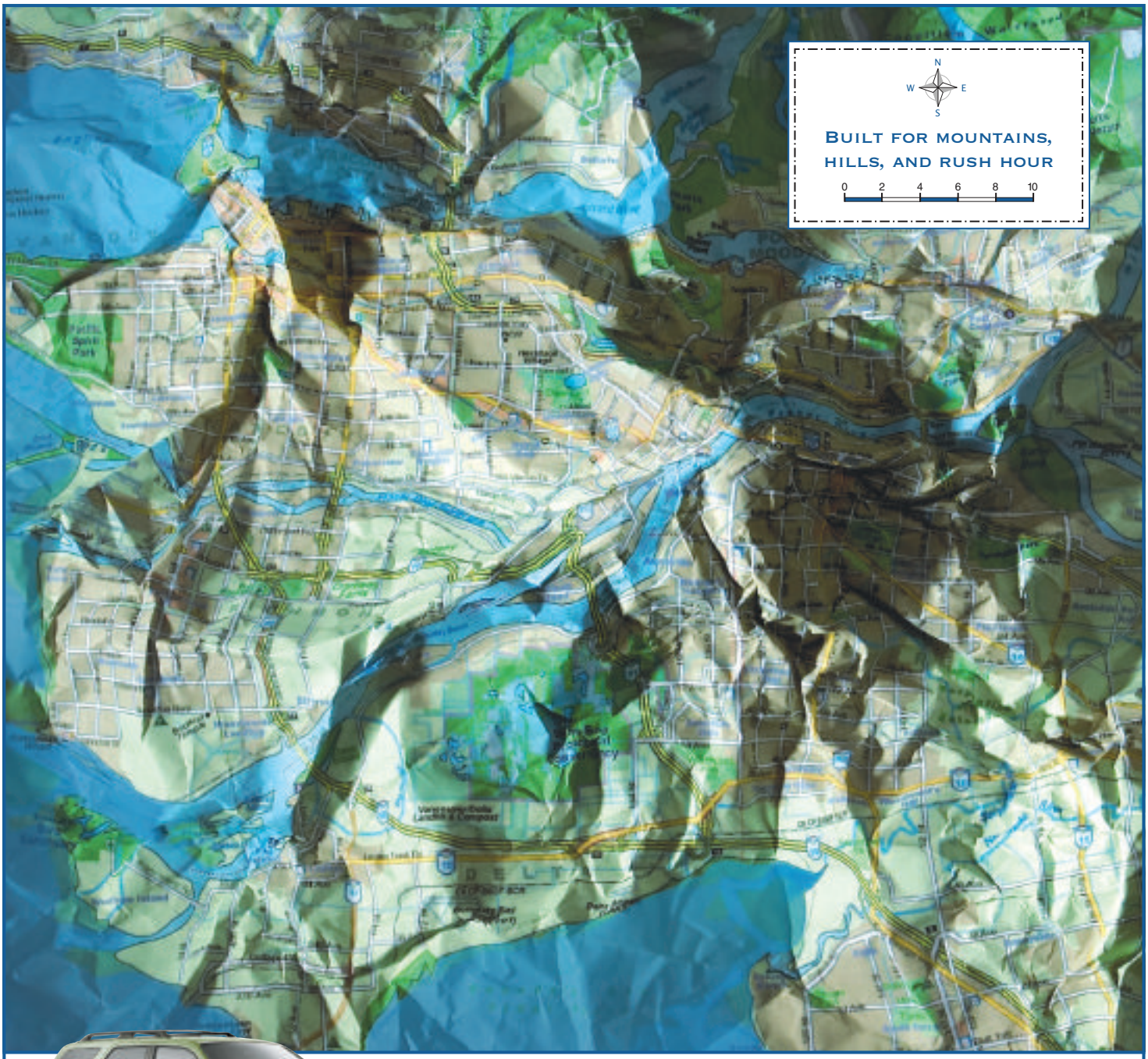
Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Variable. 17°	Clear. Low 11°	Sunny. 19°/14°	Sunny. 21°/15°	Partly cloudy. 20°/13°

Temperature
Normals
High: 17.4°
Low: 8.7°

Records
High: 24.4°/1958
Low: 3.3°/1955

Sunrise: 5:20 a.m.
Sunset: 8:58 p.m.
Moon does not rise
Moonset: 6:36 a.m.

TWN incorporates MSC data



2008 Ford Escape XLT 4x4 - Redefining the map

Standard features include: Duratec 2.3L I4 engine, 4-speed automatic transmission, ABS brakes, 16" aluminum wheels, Chrome grille, Keyless entry, Power windows/locks/mirrors, Front fog lamps, Air conditioning, AM/FM single CD/MP3 player w/clock, MP3 audio input jack, 4 speakers, Steering wheel w/mounted speed controls, Premium cloth front bucket seats, Premium cloth 60/40 split rear seat w/tip-fold-flat latch, Power 6-way driver seat adjustment, 2nd generation front driver & passenger air bags, Front side air bags & Safety Canopy™ system 1st & 2nd row, Advance Trac® w/Roll Stability Control (RSC)®, SecuriLock®/Immobilizer anti-theft system, Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), LATCH system (lower anchors and tethers for children), Ice blue lighting, Privacy glass, Roof rack w/crossbars.

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